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Kidnapping case against Revanna as woman goes missing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of various organisations protesting against H.D. Revanna and Prajwal Revanna in Bengaluru on Friday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A case of kidnapping has been booked against the former Minister H.D. Revanna and a lookout circular issued against him after the alleged abduction of a maid who was formerly working at his house, on the night of April 29.

This maid is one of the victims of sexual abuse by Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna. Satish Babu, known to the woman, allegedly took her away forcibly, saying Mr. Revanna had asked him to bring her and since then she has been incommunicado. Acting on a complaint by her son at K.R. Nagar, Mysuru district, the police registered an FIR on Thursday night.

"The video of the now missing woman, who is believed to be between 55 and 60 years, is one of the most horrific ones in the entire lot. The woman is pleading to be spared, but is raped. She has allegedly been kidnapped to prevent her from testifying against Mr. Prajwal Revanna, who allegedly raped her. Her whereabouts have not been known for four days now," an official said.

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Rahul returns to fight in U.P., chooses Rae Bareli

The Congress has only lost thrice in Rae Bareli, considered a 'safer bet' for Rahul; the party says this is part of a larger strategy, while BJP leaders accuse him of 'running away' from Amethi

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW/DELHI

Battle ground: Rahul Gandhi, along with Priyanka Gandhi, outside the Rae Bareli collectorate on Friday. SANDEEP SAXENA

Hours before the deadline for filing nominations, the Congress announced on Friday morning that it would field its former president Rahul Gandhi from Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareli constituency, and Gandhi family loyalist K.L. Sharma from Amethi, ending the long suspense over who would contest from the family's stronghold.

Though this brings Mr. Gandhi back into the battle for the Hindi heartland, it evoked a range of responses, from Congress leaders terming it a masterstroke, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP leaders accusing him of "running away" from Amethi.

Mr. Gandhi – accompanied by his mother Sonia Gandhi, sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, brother-in-law Robert Vadra, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party general secretary K.C. Venugopal – filed his nomination for the seat, describing it as an "emotional" moment. His mother had held the seat till February, when she resigned after winning a Rajya Sabha election from Rajasthan.

With Rae Bareli, Mr. Gandhi has avoided a rematch with Union Minister and BJP leader Smriti Irani in Amethi. After winning the seat thrice in a row since his electoral debut from Amethi in 2004, he lost to Ms. Irani in the 2019 general election. Rae Bareli, which the Congress has lost only thrice in the past, is considered a safer bet.

Countering the criticism this move has generated, Mr. Gandhi claimed that Amethi and Rae Bareli are not "different" and voters in both constituencies are his "family". "I am happy that Kishori Lal ji, who has been serving the area for 40 years, will represent the party from Amethi. In the ongoing fight for justice against injustice, I seek the love and blessings of my loved ones. I am confident that all of you [will] stand with me in this fight to save the Constitution and democracy," he wrote on X.

CONTINUED ON
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SC likely to consider giving interim bail to Kejriwal due to polls

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Arvind Kejriwal

The Supreme Court forewarned the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday that it may "consider" granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case due to the ongoing Lok Sabha election.

"Let me make it clear, we may consider interim bail because of elections," Justice Sanjiv Khanna informed Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, appearing for the ED.

Justice Khanna, heading a two-judge Bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, pointedly asked the ED when the polling phase in Delhi was scheduled.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for Mr. Kejriwal, said the polling was in the sixth phase on May 25. Campaigning would cease on May 23.

The court asked the ED to address arguments on whether Mr. Kejriwal could sign files. He is the first sitting Chief Minister to be arrested, and continues to hold that office.

The judge cautioned both Mr. Raju and Mr. Singhvi not to "assume anything" on the question of interim bail.

Justice Khanna said the court did not want to catch the ED by surprise on the next day of hearing scheduled on May 7.

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Rain for second day in a row brings relief to city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru received rain for the second consecutive day on Friday, bringing down the soaring summer temperatures. India Meteorological Department's, Bengaluru observation data recorded at 5.30 p.m. stated that the Bengaluru city station received 17.2 mm rainfall, while Kempegowda International Airport and HAL Airport recorded trace and 0.3 mm rainfall, respectively. The minimum temperature fell to 24.8° C and the maximum temperature recorded in the city was 37° C.

A total of 20 electricity poles were damaged in the Bescom region.

FULL REPORT
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NEARBY

'Urban apathy, errors in list led to low turnout'

BENGALURU
Apart from urban apathy and cynicism in the middle class, floating population, discrepancies in the electoral rolls, the cumbersome process of getting names deleted from the rolls, and lack of information on the candidates are some of the reasons that experts pointed out for the low voter turnout in Bengaluru Urban district. » Page 2

Neha murder was part of a conspiracy: Shah

BELAGAVI
Alleging that the Congress government in Karnataka is trying to "hush up" the brutal murder of student Neha Hiremath by branding it as an individual crime, Union Home Minister Amit Shah called it "part of a conspiracy" and said that if the State government cannot investigate the crime, the case should be transferred to the CBI.» Page 8

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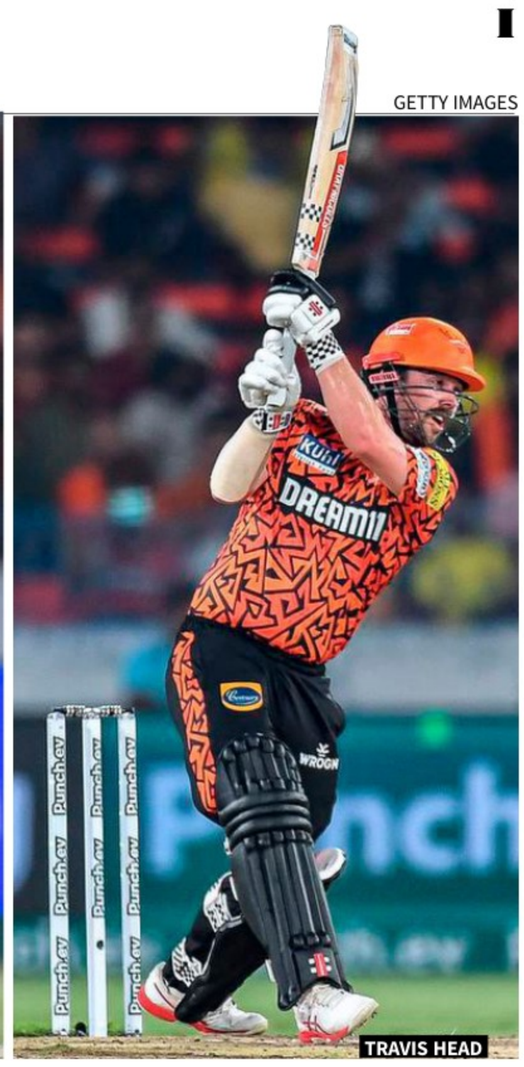
GETTY IMAGES

WILL JACKS



TRAVIS HEAD

IPL's batting marauders set a scorching pace, but will their feats endure?

This season, the world's biggest T20 league has spun some of its most frenetic yarns yet — bowlers, disarmed by the regulations and playing conditions, have bled runs — but how many innings will rise above instant gratification and stand the test of time?

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

Remember those childhood days of yore with cricketing jousts in narrow lanes and dusty grounds? The boy who owned the bat could never get out. Often the petulant willow owner would leave with what he possessed. Just because everyone needed their turn at the crease, the despot's blatant dismissals would be overturned until he was adequately satiated with runs.

Pampered batters, hapless bowlers

Cricket may have that sobriquet of being a 'Gentleman's Game', but in this age of Twenty20, we may well call it a 'Batter's Game'. Be it those contests when we were young or the ones witnessed now at the ground and on television, the holder of the bat is always pampered, as fielding restrictions ensure that the rival attack is virtually running in with one hand tied.

During childhood, there was that saving grace of a one-pitch catch and instant dismissal if the ball landed in the neighbour's terrace, but no such fine print exists at the highest level. And you cannot blame R. Ashwin when he put out a social media post about the need to save bowlers. With the Indian Premier League's (IPL) 17th edition merrily chugging along, the heat on the hapless bowlers is truly on.

W.G. Grace, one of cricket's greats with a mythical allure, once famously said: "They came to see me bat." He then refused to depart on being dismissed. Perhaps his spirit has been allowed to waft into the air blowing across cricketing turfs.

It is not as if the IPL has suddenly put cricket on the fast and furious lane. This has been a work in progress ever since Kerry Packer unveiled pyjama cricket under lights in Australia in the late 1970s

India has proved it is no exception and the latest IPL has again witnessed a batting carnage as maximums, to borrow a commentator's cliche, or sixes, to be more direct, have rained across venues spread on the coast, across the Gangetic Plains and on either side of the Vindhyas.

Last Sunday, Will Jacks smashed a 41-ball ton for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) against Gujarat Titans at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium. It does sound like a knock marinated with Muhammad Ali's muscle and a cheetah's speed. But please go easy on the superlatives, it is actually the fifth fastest IPL hundred. 'Universe Boss' Chris Gayle, who carved one off a mere 30 deliveries back in 2013, leads the charts. For those interested in trivia, Gayle was turning out for RCB too.

However, what defined Jacks and his foray at the crease was the manner in which he progressed from 50 to 100. Like a wry RCB post on X mentioned, at 6.41 p.m., Jacks was on 50, and at 6.47 p.m., the England star had galloped to his three-figure mark. Spinner Rashid Khan, seamer Mohit Sharma and the rest were put to the sword. Earlier this IPL season, Sunrisers Hyderabad's Travis Head struck a 39-ball century against RCB!

Rocketing strike-rates

Batting strike-rates have gone through the roof. Veteran M.S. Dhoni's 229.16 may be a reflection of the great traction he gains while facing just a few deliveries at the death, but even among top-order batters, the strike-rates are so high that they could give any Mumbai skyscraper an inferiority complex. Head, for instance, clocks 193.62.

At times this feels like book-cricket, which we all played during boring lectures at school and college. Looks like fans have signed a Faustian pact with rapid pleasure while forgetting about enduring joy

It is not as if the IPL has suddenly put cricket on the fast and furious lane. This has been a work in progress ever since Kerry Packer unveiled pyjama cricket under lights in Australia in the late 1970s. Cricket was no longer just about its classical avatar of Tests, as limited-overs cricket, offering floodlit instant gratification, blended entertainment into sport.

As marketing departments gazed at the appeal of cricket and the way its newest variants pulled a fresh set of fans into the grounds, corporates jumped in. This was heady, as product launches were in sync with the sporting calendar, money flowed, and cricketers became instant celebrities. Bring on the over-sized sunshades, low-slung caps, ears glued to music and that wave of the hand.

Branding was a part of the game and cricket played along. Tests continue and till date remain the game's finest exposition, but ODIs and T20s bring in the commerce. Be it the dollar, rupee or taka, cricket's abridged versions haul in the moolah, and interestingly this is linked with the manner in which batters wield their blades.

The laws were tweaked, field restrictions were enforced, bowlers could only peddle a given set of overs, and it meant batters found a sense of liberation. "Runs, as long as they come, are welcome, it doesn't matter how they come," became a subtext in commentary boxes. Edges flew thick and fast through vacant slips, skiers skimmed the turf in no-man's land, and batters knew that their weaknesses could be camouflaged.

The shorter the game, the more difficult it is to target a batter's weak traits. In Tests, place a forward short-leg, have an expansive slip-cordon and give the spearhead an extended run. In ODIs and T20s, no such luxury exists for the fielding captain. The latest IPL, with its impact-player substitution, has further emboldened batting units. There is always one extra player to fall back upon.

Batters hit through the line, there is a certain golfing skill at play too as they tee off, and then add the feather-bed pitches. Global warming, meanwhile, has been frying the earth, and in India even the summer showers have proved elusive. Nature has presented a hot and sultry cauldron, and as pitches bake, underlying moisture escapes and the grass wilts, batters find more allies in the playing surface.

Loaded dice

In Bengaluru, IPL matches tended to get moisturised by impromptu rains. The game's tenor changes, one-sided scripts alter, and everyone is in with a chance. This year, though, has been a dry affair in the Deccan Plateau. The only natural quirk that most grounds deal with is the dew at night but even that affects the way a spinner grips the ball. Again the dice gets loaded in favour of the batter.

The IPL has always been a bowler's nightmare. More than a decade ago, even a great like Dale Steyn had to deal with the mayhem inflicted by AB de Villiers. It is not as if aggressive batters suddenly emerged from the woodwork. There was always the great Viv Richards or closer home Kapil Dev. Later, there was Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and many more. It is a legacy that finds wings through Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma even if there are whispers about the former's strike-rate.

But as the IPL and other T20 leagues spin their own frenetic yarns, how many knocks do we remember? Is there anything as eternal as V.V.S. Laxman's 281 against the Aussies at Eden Gardens in 2001? The current trend is about a series of exclamation marks on successive nights, but the morning after, fortified with black coffee, seems to dissipate memories.

At times this feels like book-cricket, which we all played during boring lectures at school and college. Flip open a book, see the last digit and calculate the score, and if it is a zero, moan a bit and mark a batter's exit. Looks like fans have signed a Faustian pact with rapid pleasure while forgetting about enduring joy.

Once upon a time there was a case for aesthetic-annihilation too, pardon the alliteration and the obvious oxymoron. Readers would remember Kapil hoisting four consecutive sixes off Eddie Hemmings, Sachin lashing out against Henry Olonga or Mohammad Azharuddin wading into Lance Klusener, but even those flashes of brilliance are fading.

Sport is not just about reflexive highs, it is also about nostalgia's depth. The IPL and its batting marauders have set a scorching pace but a few weeks down the line, will all this linger?

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	9,990	17
2	Jannik Sinner	22	8,660	19
3	Carlos Alcaraz	20	8,145	17
4	Daniil Medvedev	28	7,085	19
5	Alexander Zverev	27	5,425	26
6	Casper Ruud	25	4,480	24
7	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	4,030	25
8	Andrey Rublev	26	3,830	24
9	Hubert Hurkacz	27	3,675	24
10	Grigor Dimitrov	32	3,640	22
11	Alex de Minaur	25	3,470	25
12	Holger Rune	20	3,245	23
13	Taylor Fritz	26	2,560	25
14	Ugo Humbert	25	2,535	29
15	Ben Shelton	21	2,480	25

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 82 ▼ 2 spots

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 360 ▼ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	10,560	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	7,848	17
3	Coco Gauff	20	7,258	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	6,293	19
5	Jessica Pegula	30	4,870	22
6	Maria Sakkari	28	4,195	24
7	Marketa Vondrousova	24	4,090	17
8	Qinwen Zheng	21	4,000	21
9	Ons Jabeur	29	3,533	23
10	Jelena Ostapenko	26	3,438	23
11	Daria Kasatkina	26	3,313	24
12	Karolina Muchova	27	2,965	11
13	Jasmine Paolini	28	2,938	29
14	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,830	24
15	Danielle Collins	30	2,639	18

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 258 ▼ 4 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 309 ▲ 3 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	35	25	5	5	85	28	57	80
2	Man. City	34	24	7	3	82	32	50	79
3	Liverpool	35	22	9	4	77	36	41	75
4	Aston Villa	35	20	7	8	73	52	21	67
5	Tottenham	34	18	6	10	67	54	13	60
6	Man. United	34	16	6	12	52	51	1	54
7	Newcastle	34	16	5	13	74	55	19	53
8	Chelsea	34	14	9	11	65	59	6	51
9	West Ham	35	13	10	12	56	65	-9	49
10	Bournemouth	35	13	9	13	52	60	-8	48
11	Wolves	35	13	7	15	48	55	-7	46
12	Brighton	34	11	11	12	52	57	-5	44
13	Fulham	35	12	7	16	51	55	-4	43
14	Crystal Palace	35	10	10	15	45	57	-12	40
15	Everton *	35	12	8	15	37	48	-11	36
16	Brentford	35	9	8	18	52	60	-8	35
17	N. Forest **	35	7	9	19	42	62	-20	26
18	Luton Town	35	6	7	22	48	77	-29	25
19	Burnley	35	5	9	21	38	70	-32	24
20	Sheffield	35	3	7	25	34	97	-63	16

* Everton deducted eight points and Forest deducted four points following breaches of the PL's Profitability and Sustainability Rules

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	34	28	5	1	81	18	63	89
2	AC Milan	34	21	7	6	64	39	25	70
3	Juventus	34	18	11	5	47	26	21	65
4	Bologna	34	17	12	5	49	27	22	63
5	Roma	34	17	8	9	61	41	20	59
6	Atalanta	33	17	6	10	61	37	24	57
7	Lazio	34	17	4	13	43	35	8	55
8	Fiorentina	33	14	8	11	50	37	13	50
9	Napoli	34	13	11	10	52	43	9	50
10	Torino	34	11	13	10	31	31	0	46
11	Monza	34	11	11	12	36	44	-8	44
12	Genoa	34	10	12	12	38	40	-2	42
13	Lecce	34	8	12	14	31	49	-18	36
14	Cagliari	34	7	11	16	36	59	-23	32
15	Verona	34	7	10	17	31	45	-14	31
16	Frosinone	34	7	10	17	43	63	-20	31
17	Empoli	34	8	7	19	26	50	-24	31
18	Udinese	34	4	17	13	32	51	-19	29
19	Sassuolo	34	6	8	20	40	70	-30	26
20	Salernitana	34	2	9	23	26	73	-47	15

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	33	26	6	1	71	22	49	84
2	Barcelona	33	22	7	4	68	39	29	73
3	Girona	33	22	5	6	69	40	29	71
4	Atletico Madrid	33	20	4	9	62	39	23	64
5	Athletic Bilbao	33	16	10	7	53	33	20	58
6	Real Sociedad	33	13	12	8	46	35	11	51
7	Real Betis	33	12	13	8	41	39	2	49
8	Valencia	33	13	8	12	37	38	-1	47
9	Villarreal	33	12	9	12	54	55	-1	45
10	Getafe	33	10	13	10	41	45	-4	43
11	Osasuna	33	11	6	16	37	49	-12	39
12	Alaves	33	10	8	15	31	38	-7	38
13	Sevilla	33	9	11	13	42	46	-4	38
14	Las Palmas	33	10	7	16	30	41	-11	37
15	Rayo Vallecano	33	7	13	13	27	42	-15	34
16	Real Mallorca	33	6	14	13	27	39	-12	32
17	Celta Vigo	33	7	10	16	37	50	-13	31
18	Cadiz	33	4	14	15	23	46	-23	26
19	Granada	33	4	9	20	36	61	-25	21
20	Almeria	33	1	11	21	32	67	-35	14

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Leverkusen	31	25	6	0	77	22	55	81
2	Bayern	31	22	3	6	89	38	51	69
3	Stuttgart	31	20	4	7	70	38	32	64
4	RB Leipzig	31	19	5	7	73	35	38	62
5	Dortmund	31	16	9	6	59	39	20	57
6	E. Frankfurt	31	11	12	8	47	42	5	45
7	SC Freiburg	31	11	7	13	43	55	-12	40
8	FC Augsburg	31	10	9	12	48	52	-4	39
9	Hoffenheim	31	11	6	14	55	63	-8	39
10	Heidenheim	31	9	10	12	44	52	-8	37
11	Werder Bremen	31	10	7	14	41	50	-9	37
12	Wolfsburg	31	9	7	15	37	51	-14	34
13	M'gladbach	31	7	11	13	53	60	-7	32
14	Union Berlin	31	8	6	17	26	50	-24	30
15	Bochum	31	6	12	13	37	62	-25	30
16	Mainz	31	5	13	13	32	49	-17	28
17	Cologne	31	4	11	16	24	54	-30	23
18	Darmstadt	31	3	8	20	30	73	-43	17

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	859	919
2	Joe Root	824	923
3	Babar Azam	768	882
3	Daryl Mitchell	768	804
5	Steve Smith	757	947
6	Rohit Sharma	751	813
7	Yashasvi Jaiswal	740	740
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	739	783
9	Virat Kohli	737	937
10	Harry Brook	735	773

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	870	904
2	Josh Hazlewood	847	864
2	Jasprit Bumrah	847	881
4	Kagiso Rabada	834	902
5	Pat Cummins	820	914
6	Nathan Lyon	801	801
7	Ravindra Jadeja	788	899
8	James Anderson	739	903
9	Shaheen Afridi	733	836
10	Kyle Jamieson	729	836

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	824	898
2	Shubman Gill	801	847
3	Virat Kohli	768	909
4	Harry Tector	746	767
4	Rohit Sharma	746	882
6	Daryl Mitchell	728	750
7	David Warner	723	869
8	Pathum Nissanka	711	728
9	Dawid Malan	707	730
10	Rassie van der Dussen	701	796

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	716	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	688	727
3	Adam Zampa	686	695
4	Mohammed Siraj	678	736
5	Jasprit Bumrah	665	838
6	Mohammad Nabi	656	657
7	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
8	Kuldeep Yadav	645	760
9	Trent Boult	643	775
10	Bernard Scholtz	642	642

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	861	910
2	Philip Salt	802	802
3	Mohammad Rizwan	784	875
4	Babar Azam	763	896
5	Aiden Markram	755	796
6	Yashasvi Jaiswal	714	739
7	Rilee Rossouw	689	724
8	Jos Buttler	680	687
9	Reeza Hendricks	660	674
10	Dawid Malan	657	915

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Adil Rashid	726	746
2	Wanindu Hasaranga	687	797
3	Akeal Hosein	664	683
4	Axar Patel	660	667
5	Maheesh Theekshana	659	684
5	Ravi Bishnoi	659	699
7	Josh Hazlewood	654	806
7	Tabraiz Shamsi	654	821
9	Rashid Khan	645	816
10	Reece Topley	643	662

Urban apathy, errors in voter list led to low turnout: Experts

They also attribute cynicism in the middle class, floating population, and poor information about candidates in the three Lok Sabha constituencies in the city for the lowest turnout on April 26

Bengaluru South recorded the lowest voter turnout at 53.17% in the Lok Sabha polls. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Apart from urban apathy and cynicism in the middle class, floating population, discrepancies in the electoral rolls, the cumbersome process of getting names deleted from the rolls and lack of information on the candidates are some of the reasons that experts pointed out for the low voter turnout in the April 26 Lok Sabha polls in Bengaluru Urban district.

The three Lok Sabha constituencies in the city have clocked the lowest turnout among the seats in the State where elections were held, with Bengaluru South recording the lowest at 53.17%.

Participating in a panel discussion organised by Bangalore Political Action Committee (BPAC) on Friday, Sandeep Shastri, National Coordinator of Lokniti Network (that conducts Election Studies), said in urban areas, the voters' list is inflated because of a floating population, duplication of names or because names of many who have either residing outside Bengaluru or abroad have not been deleted.

"We did a study covering 40 households in a few Assembly constituencies, including Vijaynagar, Basavangudi and Bommanahalli and found that in many households more than half of those on rolls are either living abroad or outside Karnataka. We also found a significant chunk of people who have a vote in smaller townships outside Bengaluru as their social and economic interests are there," he said.

"Do our rolls actually have names of those who are legitimate residents of Bengaluru? Technically, this could be the reason for the poor turnout as the list is inflated with names of those who are not residing here," he explained.

Deletion is cumbersome

Vikram Rai, president of Bengaluru Apartment Federation, shared his analysis on baseline errors in the electoral rolls giving observations of a few apartment complexes where registered voters shift their residence within and out of the city.

"Although many shift their houses, their names are not deleted from the old area whereas they are quickly added in the list with their new address. While the process of addition is simple, getting names deleted is a cumbersome exercise," he said.

Sudheendra M.G., KPCC spokesperson and Block Congress president, said there is a feeling among voters that their single vote is insignificant.

Kaveri Kedarnath, former BJP mandal president in Malleshwaram, said the personnel deputed for election enumeration duties are overburdened. "From last election to this election, over 30% would have shifted their houses, especially post-COVID. But, the staff do not visit every house to check. Hence, the rolls are full of discrepancies," she said.

Around 1.49 lakh students to write UGNEET-2024 tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Under Graduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (UG-NEET-2024), which is the gateway to medical courses, will be held on Sunday and this year, around 1.49 lakh students have enrolled for the test.

National Testing Agency (NTA) is conducting the test in 13 languages, including Kannada. The NEET-2024 will be held in 29 district centres across Karnataka, including Bengaluru.

The test will be held from 2 p.m. to 5.20 p.m. The reporting/entry time at centres is 11 a.m. and gate closing time is 1.30 p.m. Students have been asked to reach at least 30 minutes before the exam centre's opening time.

Dress code

As per the NTA guidelines, male candidates are advised to wear half-sleeved shirts and t-shirts and pants/trousers with pockets. Female candidates are not allowed to wear brooch, flowers, badges, or jeans. Ornaments such as earrings, nose rings, pendants, necklaces, etc., are restricted. They can wear light-coloured denim pants and half-sleeve t-shirts. Kurti, leggings and palazzo are not allowed.

Any items like textual material, bits of papers, geometry, pencil box, plastic pouch, calculator, pen, scale, writing pad, pen drives, eraser, calculator, log table, electronic pen, scanner, any communication devices like mobile phones, bluetooth, earphones, microphones, pager, health band, wallet, googles, handbags, belt, caps, watch, wrist watch, bracelet, camera, food items, packed water bottle, are strictly banned in exam hall.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client, Mr. D.R Girish and G.H Latha, residing at No.35, 4th Block, 2Nd Cross, MLA Layout, Vinayaka Temple, Lakshmanappa Nagar, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore 560094, has lost/misplaced original Katha & Tax Paid receipt, pertaining to the Residential Site bearing No.180, BDA Katha No.BDA/RO/West/Kannalli/SN/180/2014-15, dated: 05.12.2014, & Tax paid receipt No.6000013371, carved out of Sy.No.71/1, 72/1, 74/1 TO 75/3, 75/4, 75/5 AND OTHERS, situated at Kannalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru.

Any person or persons finding the original documents or anyone asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the aforesaid Property/s or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the aforesaid Property/s or the documents thereof or against the owners or objecting to said transaction with my client, should write to the undersigned within Fifteen days from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to aforesaid Property/s or any part thereof, after which period our clients shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the aforesaid Property/s.

Place : Bengaluru.
Date:

SD/-
Akhilesh S, Advocate
No.79, Sathyanarayana, H. B. C. S, 2nd Stage, 3rd Cross, Mahalakshmipuram Post, Bangalore - 560 086.
Email:- akhileshsridhar1994@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client, **Mr. Ameen K. Gilani** has negotiated for purchase of below mentioned schedule property from its owner **Sri. RAMESH ROSHAN BORANA, S/o. Late Roshan Lal,** R/at No.495, 2nd Cross, Model Colony, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru-560022.

Any person/s, banks / financial Sectors / individual /authorities etc., having any claim/s, right, share or interest over the schedule property shall file his/her/their/its objections along with original documents with the undersigned within **07 DAYS** from the date of this publication.

Any objections on and after **07 days,** shall not be entertained and my client shall proceed with the sale transaction presuming that there are no claim/s of anyone whatsoever over the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Municipal Corporation No. 46/56/44 (Formerly being residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 66/44 (still old Sy.No.66/1) of **Thanisandra Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk,** within the limits of BBMP Ward No. 6, duly converted vide official memorandum bearing No. ALN (E) SR(K.H.) 130/2010-11, dated: 03/05/2011 passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, measuring **0-16 Guntas or 17424 Square feet** and bounded on:

East by : Previously the land retained by K. Padmanabhaiah, now Houses,
West by : Indira Iris Apartment,
North by : Property bearing Sy. No.65,
South by : Vidyasagara Main Road (Saraipalya),

(A.N. Krishna), Advocate,
#7, 2nd Floor, B.R. Ramu Building,
Diagonal Road, V.V. Puram, Bengaluru-560004.
Bengaluru Date : 03-05-2024

भा.कृ.अनु.प. - केंद्रीय कपास अनुसंधान संस्थान
पोस्ट बैग सं. 2, शंकरनगर पोस्ट ऑफिस, नागपुर - 440 010
ICAR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR COTTON RESEARCH
Post Bag No. 2, Shankar Nagar Post Office, Nagpur - 440 010
Phone: 07103-275536, Fax: 07103-275529
Website: www.cicr.org.in, E-mail: cicrnagpur@gmail.com
An ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Advertisement No. Rectt/YP-II/2024 Date: 01.05.2024

ONLINE / OFFLINE (WALK-IN) INTERVIEW

Applications are invited for Online / Offline interview for Young Professional-II (3 Nos.), scheduled to be held on 20 and 21 May 2024 at 10:00 AM, respectively at ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Near Hotel Le-Meridian, Panjari, Wardha Road, Nagpur under ICAR funded project "Enhancing climate resilience and ensuring food security with genome editing tools" purely on contractual basis.

S.N.	Name, No. of Posts and Fellowship	Essential Qualification
1	YP-II - 03 Nos. @ ₹ 42,000/- p.m. (fixed)	Master Degree (M.Sc. Agri./M.Sc./M.Tech/M.S.) from a recognized University in Agricultural Biotechnology/Molecular Biology/Molecular Biology and Biotechnology/Biochemistry/Biotechnology/Botany/Microbiology/Life Sciences.

For more details, please visit our website: **https://cicr.org.in**.

I/c Establishment Section

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.
No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra /Corrigendum
Tender Notification No: 01/2024-25 Dated: 02.05.2024

Corrigendum-1

Name of Work: Repairs to Body wall and Barrel portion in between Emergency and Service gate to Arrest Leakages in Left Bank Canal Sluice of Bhadra Dam including repairs to Sill beam groove portion of Emergency Gate. **Reference:** No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra /Tender Notification No: 01/2024-25 Dated: 25.04.2024

The following modification is made in the DTP of the above said work for 3.2(V)&(VII) which was uploaded in the **E-Procurement and the details are as below: As per Tender Document** : 3.2(V) and (VII) As per DTP During Publishing

Now to be read as: The Above work is Special and rare works for this reason 3.2 (V) and (VII) Altered for details refer www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

All other items and conditions remain un-altered. Further details and information can be had (http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) OR undersigned in all working days during Office hours on telephone No.: 8660573513.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL No.4 BRLBC Division Bhadravati

DIPR/smg/No.01/05/ksmca/24-25/05

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 969 of 2022
M/s. CANARA BANK
BYATARAYANAPURA BR., MYSORE RD., B'LORE-26.
Rep. by its Senior Manager **V/s. ....APPLICANT**
Sri T.S. MALLIKARJUNA
....DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DRT (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993
Sri T.S. MALLIKARJUNA
Major, S/o. Sri T.H. Sathyanarayana, **Prop. M/s. SRI RAKSHA INDUSTRIES @** # 122, 4th Main Road, Poornaprajna Layout, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085.

WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendant for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 20,25,938/=** alongwith court costs, together with current & future interest and other reliefs from the date of application till date of recovery. You are hereby required **to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 15th day of July 2024 at 10:30 a.m.** either in person or duly instructed pleader as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 4th day of April 2024 at Bangalore.

BY THE ORDER OF THE COURT
Sd/- (REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1 for Karnataka BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client **Sri.D.RAJANNA,** S/o Late Doddamuniyappa, aged about 58 Years, R/at Singanayakanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, (Earlier Bangalore North (Addl.) Taluk), Bangalore., hereby revoke the General Power of Attorney with immediate effect by issued legal notice on 03.05.2024 revoked the Registered General Power of Attorney dated 8th August 2007, registered as Document No. YAN-4-00054-2007-08, of Book 4, Stored in C.D.No. YAND 293, Registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore, in favour of **(1). Sri.B.N.ANANDA,** S/o Late Narayanappa, Aged about 38 Years, R/at 63, Bagalur Colony, Bagalur Post, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk (Earlier Bangalore North (Addl.) Taluk). **(2).Sri.M.SHIVAKUMAR,** S/o Late Muniyallappa, aged about 40 Years, R/at "Rachana Nilaya" No.21, 1st Main Road, 2nd Cross, Muneshwara Layout, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore-560097, in respect of land bearing Sy.No.3/6, to an extent of 0-21 Guntas, (Converted from Agricultural purpose to non-agricultural purpose vide conversion order bearing No.B.DIS.ALN:SR.216/78-79 Dated. 02.07.1979) Situated at **Ramagondanahalli Village, Yelahanaka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.** If any transaction is made by anybody with him, my client is not responsible for the same.

Sd/-
RAVINDRANATH B, Advocate,
No.15, "Namma Mane",
3rd Cross, Chowdaiah Block,
R.T. Nagar, Bangalore-560 032.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mrs. Lakshmamma,** wife of Mr. S.H. Thammanna Gowda, aged about 66 years, residing at Devamachohalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the original documents viz., **(1)** Sale Deed dated 27.09.2006, registered as Document No.41126/2006-07 **(2)** Sale Deed dated 19.03.2014, registered as Document No.11261/2013-14 **(3)** Katha Certificate and Katha Extract which stands in the name of my client **(4)** Tax paid receipt for the year of 2023-24 and **(5)** E.C. (Form No.15) from the period of 01.04.2004 to till date and other relevant documents pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, a Complaint has also been lodged on 25-04-2024, before the Tavarekere Police Station, Ramanagara District, vide reference GSC No. PO0277240600242. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said documents, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site **No.96,** formed in Sy.No.46, earlier under the jurisdiction of CMC Ward No.31, Dasarahalli, presently coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP, Ward No.73, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 50 feet, totally measuring **1500 Square feet,** situated at **Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** and bounded on:

East by : Site No.95; West by : Site No.97; North by : Road; South by : Site No.80;

Manjunath Rao and Associates
Advocate,
No.11, 1st Floor, Meera Nivas,
North Park Road, Seshadripuram,
Bangalore - 560 020. **Mob: 8884958813**

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice.No.C/ SG/C/36/5/393 Dated: 02.05.2024

PUB/0411

For and on Behalf of President of India, Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Projects), South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites E-Tenders (Open) for the following work up to **15.00 Hours on 07.06.2024.**

Sl.No.: 01 **Tender No.:** C/SG/C/36/5/393 **Description of work:** Comprehensive signaling and Telecommunication works for provision of Intermediate Block Signaling system in Zangalapalli-Prasannayanapalle, Anantapur-Taticherla and Taticherla-Garladinne sections of Guntakal Division in South Central Railway. **Approx. value:** ₹ 171784214.04 **Period of completion:** 390 Days

Please visit Indian Government tender Portal Website **www.ireps.gov.in** for all particulars including Full Description of the work, tender conditions, eligibility criteria and details, downloading of tender document of the above works.

A0522 **Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer(Projects),Secunderabad**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit website at www.ireps.gov.in http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

बनारस रेल इंजन कारखाना, वाराणसी-221004

बिड संख्या. E-07/2024-2025 **ई-निविदायें** **दिनांक: 30.04.2024**

भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए एवं उनकी ओर से निम्नलिखित वस्तुओं के आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। केवल ई-प्रस्ताव ही स्वीकार्य है, जिसके लिए वेंडर का क्लास III का डिजिटल सिग्नेचर एवं IREPS पर पंजीकरण आवश्यक है। **निविदाओं का विवरण निम्न क्रम से हैं:- क्र.सं., निविदा संख्या, (खुलने की तिथि), विवरण और मात्रा। 1.** 09241025A, विज्ञापित निविदा, (15/05/2024), हाई वोल्टेज बुशिंग, (पुर्जा सं. 29731021), 792 अदद **2.** 09231081E, (Dev.) विज्ञापित निविदा, (21/05/2024), केबल ग्लांड पी जी ऐम स (PL NO. 29611568), 120 अदद **3.** 09231082E, (Dev.) विज्ञापित निविदा, (22/05/2024), केबल ग्लांड पी जी ऐम स 29 ऐम स (PL NO. 29611570), 60 अदद **4.** 09231079E, (Dev.) विज्ञापित निविदा, (24/05/2024), लेचिंग पुस बटन (PL NO. 29700097), 20 सेट्स **5.** 09231021, विज्ञापित निविदा, (29/05/2024), सेट ऑफ़ हार्नेस्स केबल फॉर WAP-7, (पुर्जा सं. 29600418), 162 सेट्स **6.** 02241010, (04/06/2024), बोल्ट हेक्सागन, पार्ट सं. 19017054, 287 अदद। **7.** 02241014, (11/06/2024), हेक्स हेड बोल्ट, पार्ट सं. 15710014, 136 अदद। **8.** 02241019, (11/06/2024), नट, पार्ट सं. 19359020, 36 अदद। **9.** 02241009, (14/06/2024), हेक्स हेड कैप स्क्रू, पार्ट सं. 15059054, 431 अदद। **10.** 02231361D, (28/05/2024), बोल्ट सिलिन्डर क्रैब फोरजींग, पार्ट सं. 17230123, 1244 अदद। **11.** 02241345, (29/05/2024), स्टैनलेस स्टील हार्डवेयर आइटम्स कीट फॉर टीएएस कैब, पार्ट सं. 29408532, 468 सेट। **12.** 02231378A, (22/05/2024), ऐडजसटिंग स्क्रू, पार्ट सं. 10217680, 48 अदद। **13.** 05241012, (24.05.24), सेफटी हेल्मेट, पार्ट नं. 76901830, 1200 अदद। **14.** 05241040, (03.06.24), **(I)** हैंड क्रिम्पिंग टूल, पार्ट नं. 72056095, 03 अदद। **(II)** हैंड रेटचट क्रिंप, पार्ट नं. 72051280, 10 अदद। **(III)** हैंड क्रिम्पर, पार्ट नं. 72902140, 03 अदद। **15.** 05241001, (31.05.24), किट फॉर नोज़ल, पार्ट नं. 76300079, 45 अदद। **16.** 05245088, (03.06.24), स्पेयर पार्टस फॉर वोल्टास फोर्क लिफ्टर, 01 सेट। **17.** 04241105 आर./ए. (डबल बिड सिस्टम), 27.05.2024, लेदर बिलो पार्ट सं. 29940436, 851 सेट. **18.** 04242402, 20.05.2024, एडीशनल सेफ़्टी स्लिंग पार्ट सं. 29140547, 1000 सेट. **19.** 04241014, 03.06.2024, ब्लाइंड इन्स्टालेशन पार्ट सं. 29170059, 823 सेट. **20.** 09231342B, विश्वजनीननिविदा, (04/06/2024),कॉनटेक्टर स्टार्टिंग-ऑक्स एस टी ए चार्ट, (पुर्जा सं. 18140014), 92 अदद. उक्त निविदाओं का विस्तृत विवरण **https://www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** और **https://www.ireps.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है। **संशोधन सूचना:- 21. निविदा सं.:** 09241295 **बिड़.आ.सं.:** E-03 **वर्तमान खुलने की तिथि:** 03/05/2024 **संशोधित खुलने की तिथि:** 17/05/2024 **वर्तमान मात्रा:** 23706 Nos. **संशोधित मात्रा:** 307706 Nos. **22. बीड सं.:** ई-05 **निविदा संख्या:** 02232057 वाशर, पार्ट सं. 19394329 **रिवीजन:** 1 **पूर्ण सुधार का विवरण: निविदा की विद्यमान मात्रा:** 130 अदद। **निविदा की संशोधित मात्रा:** 338 अदद। **23. बीड सं.:** ई-07 **निविदा संख्या:** 02241010 बोल्ट हेक्सागन, पार्ट सं. 19017054 **रिवीजन:** 1 **पूर्ण सुधार का विवरण: निविदा की विद्यमान मात्रा:** 287 अदद। **निविदा की संशोधित मात्रा:** 317 अदद। **24. निविदा सं.:** 08231131A **बिड़.आ.सं.:** E-117 **वर्तमान खुलने की तिथि:** 25.04.2024 **संशोधित खुलने की तिथि:** 10.05.2024 **25. निविदा सं.:** 08231132 **बिड़.आ.सं.:** E-117 **वर्तमान खुलने की तिथि:** 25.04.2024 **संशोधित खुलने की तिथि:** 10.05.2024 **नोट:- उपरोक्त निविदा की अन्य सभी शर्तें अपरिवर्तित रहेंगी।**

ज.स.अ./बरेका/एस–07 **प्रमुख मुख्य सामग्री प्रबंधक**

/blwvaranasi 'वेबसाइट :- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nagaraja T G S/o Gangadharappa, R/o Tavarekere village, Channagiri taluk do hereby declare that, a schedule property was allotted to my father Gangadharapp S/o Kollarappa by Panchayat in 1988-89 Original Hakku Pathra Said Original Hakku Pathra is accidentally lost while demolishing our old house in Tavarekere in 2021. Hence I lodged a complaint in Police department U/s 155 CRPC on 30-04-2024. If anybody finds the said Original Hakku Pathra kindly request you to hand it over at below mentioned address.

SCHEDULE

Nagaraja T. G. S/o Gangadharappa, Channagiri taluk, Tavarekere Gram Panchayat Jurisdiction, Tavarekere village bearing **property No. 680 PID NO 151200103700100968** measuring East-West 22 ft, North-South 25 ft, Property Bounded by: East-Lakkamma W/o Udsappa, West-Manjappa S/o Kollarappa, North South-Road.

Contact: Nagaraja T. G. 81519 54732

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.:- S/RWP/E/2024-25/06, dated : 02.05.2024. Principal Chief Materials Manager /Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites **online "e-Open Tender",** through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in,** for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **SN 1, Tender No. :** 02245075, **Short Description of item :** OLTC Spares, **Quantity :** Sr. No. 1 to 3 = 03 Set, Sr. No. 4 to 9 = 54 Nos., **Date of Tender Closing/ Opening :** 30.05.2024,
SN 2, Tender No. : 02245093A, **Short Description of item :** 3Phase Induction Motor, **Quantity :** 02 Nos., **Date of Tender Closing/ Opening :** 31.05.2024,
1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in. 2.** The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation** with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in the all concerned newspapers. **PCMM, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela**
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2024-25/19

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mrs. H. Sheetal,** wife of Mr. S.T. Ramesh, aged about 36 years, residing at Devamachohalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the original documents viz., **(1)** Sale Deed dated 13.03.1981, registered as Document No.18660/1980-81 **(2)** Sale Deed dated 27.11.2002, registered as Document No.18143/2002-03 **(3)** Sale Deed dated 16.02.2005, registered as Document No.51422/2004-05 **(4)** Deposit of Title Deed (DTD) dated 06.12.2010, registered as Document No.2106/2010-11 **(5)** Sale Deed dated 19.03.2014, registered as Document No.11266/2013-14 **(6)** Katha Certificate and Katha Extract which stands in the name of my client **(7)** Tax paid receipt for the year of 2023-24 and **(8)** E.C. (Form No.15) from the period of 01.03.1981 to till date and other relevant documents pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, a Complaint has also been lodged on 25-04-2024, before the Tavarekere Police Station, Ramanagara District, vide reference GSC No.PO0277240600243. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said documents, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site **No.80,** Old Dasarahalli CMC Katha No.1246, formed in Sy.No.46, earlier under the jurisdiction of Dasarahalli CMC Ward No.31, presently coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP, Ward No.73, Bangalore, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet, totally measuring **2400 Square feet,** situated at **Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** and bounded on:

East by: Site No.81; West by : Site No.79; North by: Site No.96; South by : Road;

Manjunath Rao and Associates
Advocate,
No.11, 1st Floor, Meera Nivas,
North Park Road, Seshadripuram,
Bangalore - 560 020. **Mob: 8884958813**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. S.T. Kuberaswamy,** son of Mr. S.H. Thammanna Gowda, aged about 52 years, residing at Devamachohalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the original documents viz., **(1)** Sale Deed dated 21.01.2004, registered as Document No.11849/2003-04 **(2)** Sale Deed dated 20.02.2010, registered as Document No.18629/2009-10 **(3)** Sale Deed dated 01.07.2014, registered as Document No.3043/2014-15 **(4)** Katha Uttara Patra dated 08.03.2010 **(5)** Katha Certificate and Katha Extract which stands in the name of my client **(6)** Tax paid receipt for the year of 2023-24 and **(7)** E.C. (Form No.15) from the period of 01.01.2004 to till date and other relevant documents pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, a Complaint has also been lodged on 25-04-2024, before the Tavarekere Police Station, Ramanagara District, vide reference GSC No.PO0277240600241. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said documents, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Plot bearing **No.49,** carved out of Property bearing Mysore City Corporation Khata No.673/1 N1/1, 673/1B N1/2B, 673/2 N1/2, 673/2C N1/2C, 6733-1 N1/2D, 673/2E N1/2E, situated at **Karanji Mansion, Vasanthmahal Road, Nazerbad, Mysore,** known as "Century Park" layout plan approved by Mysore Urban Development Authority, presently comes under the jurisdiction of Mysore Mahanagara Palike, Mysore, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally **2400 Sq.ft.,** or 233 Sq.mtrs., and bounded on:

East by : Road; West by : Site No.44; North by: Site No.50; South by : Site No.48;

Manjunath Rao and Associates
Advocate,
No.11, 1st Floor, Meera Nivas,
North Park Road, Seshadripuram,
Bangalore - 560 020. **Mob: 8884958813**

भारतीय खाद्य निगम **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**
REGIONAL OFFICE : No. 10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041
No. RO KA-32.0011.0/9/2024-CON-RO KA Date: 03.05.2024

ई–निविदा सूचना / e-Tender Notice

जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत, दो वर्ष हेतु 1) आरएच/ जीएस/ पीडब्ल्यूएस यादगिरि पर एचटीसी, 2) एफएसडी के आरपीजी पर एचसी, 3) एफएसडी कुशलनगर पर एचटीसी और 4) एफएसडी तुमकुर और आरएच/जीएस क्यात्संद्रा गुडस पर एचटीसी, के लिए ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जा रही है। ऑनलाइन बोलियां 14.05.2024 को अपराहन 02:00 बजे तक प्रस्तुत की जानी हैं।

एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर उपलब्ध हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है ।

Online Tenders for regular 1) HTC at PWS/RH/GS Yadgiri, 2) HC at FSD KRPG 3) HTC at FSD Kushalnagar and 4) HTC at FSD Tumkur & RH/GS Kyatsandra Goods, for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online within 2.00 PM on 14.05.2024.

NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in"**. For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**

महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (Karnataka)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to purchase converted **Sy.No.87** measuring **3 Acres, Sy.No.54** measuring **2 Acres, Sy.No.53** measuring **2 Acres and Sy.No.52** measuring **1 Acre 30 Guntas,** situated at **Mallasandra Village, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk and District** bounded as follows –

Sy.No.87 measuring 3 Acres
East by : Land belonging to Sri.Byatappa;
West by : Road;
North by : Mallasandra Road;
South by : Land bearing Sy.No.54

Sy.No.53 measuring 2 Acres and Sy.No.54 measuring 2 Acres
East by : Land belonging to Sri.Byatappa;
West by : Road;
North by : Land bearing Sy.No.87;
South by : Land belonging to Sri.Muneppa.

Sy.No.52 measuring 1 Acre 30 Guntas
East by : Land of Chikkanna and Sri.Byatappa;
West by : Road and Land of Sri.Dandappa;
North by : Land of Sri.Subash and Land bearing Sy.No.53;
South by : Border of Malur and Land bearing Sy.No.35.

from its owners **Smt.Parvathamma wife of late.Sri.T.Narayana and her son Sri. N.Venkata Mohan, Smt.S.Prathima wife of Sri.N.Venkata Mohan and their children Sri.V.Aishwarya, Sri.V.Sai Sirisha, (Kumari.V.Brinda and Master. V.Nirmala Adithya minors,** represented by their natural guardian **Sri.N.Venkat Mohan).**

Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication, to the undersigned.

K.V. Narendra & Associates,
Advocates
No. 557, 2nd Floor, 9th A Main,
Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560038
Ph : 99451 09229.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mrs. Leelavathi K.,** wife of Mr. S.T. Kuberaswamy, aged about 44 years, residing at Devamachohalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the original documents viz., **(1)** Sale Deed dated 09.03.1981, registered as Document No.18121/1980-81 **(2)** General Power of Attorney dated 13.05.1993 **(3)** Sale Deed dated 11.11.2003, registered as Document No.28965/2003-04 **(4)** Sale Deed dated 05.04.2006, registered as Document No.1051/2006-07 **(5)** Sale Deed dated 19.03.2014, registered as Document No.11260/2013-14 **(6)** Katha Certificate and Katha Extract which stands in the name of my client **(7)** Tax paid receipt for the year of 2023-24 and **(8)** E.C. (Form No.15) from the period of 01.03.1981 to till date and other relevant documents pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, a Complaint has also been lodged on 25-04-2024, before the Tavarekere Police Station, Ramanagara District, vide reference GSC No.PO0277240600244. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said documents, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site **No.79,** Katha No.256, formed in Sy.No.46, Katha No.33, earlier under the jurisdiction of CMC Ward No.31, Dasarahalli, presently coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP, Ward No.73, Bangalore, measuring East to West 45 feet and North to South 60 feet, totally measuring **2820 Square feet,** situated at **Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** and bounded on:

East by : Site No.80; West by : Site No.72; North by : Site No.97; South by : Road;

Manjunath Rao and Associates
Advocate,
No.11, 1st Floor, Meera Nivas,
North Park Road, Seshadripuram,
Bangalore - 560 020. **Mob: 8884958813**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
ROAD DIVISION, DUMKA

SHORT TIME
e-Procurement Notice
Tender Reference No. RCD/DUMKA/697 Date 03.05.2024

1	Name of Work-	Renovation and Development of 'E Type' Quarters and Residential Campus of Executive Engineers Posted in RCD, Dumka i.e. Executive Engineer, Advance Planning, Technical Advisor & Executive Engineer (Monitoring) in Road Circle, Dumka under Non Plan (Shrawani Mela 2024) for the year 2024-25.
2	Estimated cost(In Rs)	Rs 1,55,00,000.00 (Rupees One Crore Fifty Five Lac Only)
3	Time of completion	Twelve Months
4	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	13.05.2024 at 10.30 AM
5	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	23.05.2024 Up to 12.00 Noon
6	Date of opening of Tender	24.05.2024 at 12.30 PM
7	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of The Executive Engineer Road Construction Department Road Division, Dumka.
8	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	8252424164
9	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Relaxation from Model Code of Conduct of Parliamentary Election 2024, for the issuance of Tender invitation and its Award, Disposal, Agreement and Execution of the Works has

GETTY IMAGES

Liverpool bravely steps into the unknown with Arne Slot

The Merseyside club has chosen the Feyenoord manager as Jurgen Klopp's successor. Slot has a winning pedigree in the Netherlands and has been praised for his innovative, attacking football. But his inexperience, especially at the elite level, represents a considerable risk

> I think Arne Slot is perhaps one of the better Dutch coaches at this moment. I think the way of playing and the philosophy he has, that he could be a Liverpool coach
>
> **VIRGIL VAN DIJK**
> Liverpool captain

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse

Finding the right candidate to fill Jurgen Klopp's shoes was always going to be an arduous task given Liverpool's resurgent success under his watch.

The celebrated Merseyside club had lost some of its aura during the Premier League era and needed a talismanic figure to restore its reputation. In Klopp, Liverpool found just the man.

Transformational era

Since his appointment in 2015, Klopp has transformed the club into one of the most dominant forces in European football. During his nine-year reign, Liverpool won a full set of trophies.

The Champions League win in 2019 was arguably Klopp's biggest victory, given the tournament's pre-eminence, but perhaps even sweeter – in terms of what it meant as a moment – was the end of Liverpool's 30-year wait for an English league title in 2020.

Klopp has become an icon for fans, with his trademark post-match fist pump to the crowd an example of the connection he has with them. So it was no surprise that Liverpool supporters were stunned in January by his decision to stand down because he was "running out of energy".

Liverpool set about identifying Klopp's successor fully aware of the consequences of getting it wrong. Michael Edwards, recently appointed "chief executive of football" for Liverpool owner FSG, oversaw the process. Edwards was the club's former sporting director and had a key role in Klopp's success, which included the signings of Mohamed Salah, Alisson Becker and Virgil van Dijk.

As part of the search, Liverpool looked for candidates who would suit a squad assembled to play Klopp's high-pressing tactics. They also needed to have the personality to take charge at one of the world's biggest clubs.

For a long period, Xabi Alonso looked like the perfect fit after the former Liverpool player ended Bayern Munich's dominance of German soccer. Liverpool never publicly confirmed interest in Alonso, but he put an end to the speculation, committing his future to Bayer Leverkusen.

> I like the way his [Slot's] team plays football. I don't know him, but some people who know him say he's a good guy. I like that a lot
>
> **JURGEN KLOPP**
> Liverpool manager

Sporting Lisbon's Ruben Amorim was another contender, but ESPN reported that his loyalty to his 3-4-3 formation was a stumbling block – with Amorim reluctant to compromise on his tactical philosophy, the cost of hiring him amounted to more than his release clause (€15 million) and salary expectations (in the region of €12 million a year). Liverpool also had to factor in the cost of the squad upheaval that would result from recruiting for a different system of play.

Betting on Slot

Liverpool eventually zeroed in on Feyenoord manager Arne Slot, who had been heavily linked with a move to Tottenham Hotspur last year.

Slot, who moved to Feyenoord in 2021 after impressing in his first managerial role at AZ Alkmaar, led the Rotterdam club in their first season together to the final of the inaugural Europa Conference League, which it narrowly lost to Jose Mourinho's Roma. Slot then delivered just a second league title in 24 years to Feyenoord and added the Dutch Cup this year.

While Slot has a winning pedigree with Feyenoord, that record will not guarantee success in England. Liverpool need only look at Erik ten Hag's struggles at Manchester United to know how difficult it can be for a winning coach to adapt to a new league.

Ten Hag won three Dutch titles with Ajax, but faces uncertainty over his future at Old Trafford after a troubled season that looks likely to see United fail to qualify for the Champions League.

An advantage for Slot would be the fact that he takes over a team on the up after Klopp rebuilt his all-conquering squad over the past two years. Despite losing key players like Sadio Mane, Jordan Henderson and Roberto Firmino, Liverpool has quickly returned to title contention and won the League Cup in February with seven players of his team in the final aged 21 or under.

Although Klopp and Liverpool were hoping to end their association on a high, with another Premier Leaguetitle, the recent defeat at Everton and draw against West Ham have hurt their chances. Liverpool was also eliminated in the Europa League quarterfinals by Atalanta.

While that has put a dampener on Klopp's final weeks in charge – there could still be a miracle in the script – he looked at the situation with characteristic humour. "Obviously now I even help by not finishing on a high, so there is space for improvement," Klopp said.

Klopp said he liked Slot's style of play but added that he has not been involved in the search process. "It's not up to me to judge these things, but it all sounds really good to me," said Klopp. "I like the way his team plays football. I don't know him, but some people who know him say he's a good guy. I like that a lot."

So, what sort of coach is Liverpool getting?

Slot has been widely praised for his innovative, attacking football with Feyenoord. The British press has already dubbed him the 'Dutch Pep Guardiola', with Slot making no secret of his admiration for the Manchester City manager.

In addition to Guardiola, Slot's football ideas have also been influenced by Roberto De Zerbi, Marcelo Bielsa, Jorge Sampaoli, Luciano Spalletti, Mikel Arteta and Klopp himself. Former teammates of Slot say he thought like a manager during his playing days, with the one-time midfielder often discussing tactical intricacies with his coaches at FC Zwolle.

Meticulous, driven, passionate

Slot is known as a passionate leader with a fierce work ethic, driving to Feyenoord's camp before dawn, watching every training session, and obsessively studying future opponents. This obsession with hard work and attention to detail have led to results at Feyenoord, seen as a team with physically fit players who fight for each other and often score late goals.

But for all Slot's ability, the decision to choose him as Klopp's successor still represents a step into the unknown for Liverpool.

Before arriving in Anfield, Klopp had a history of success in elite football in addition to being an influential, cutting-edge tactician. The 45-year-old Slot, in contrast, has only had five seasons as a head coach, all of them in the Netherlands, which doesn't house a top-five league.

The pressures of living up to Anfield's glorious history, the challenges of dealing with both superstar players and the invasive British football press, and the cut-throat competitive depth of the Premier League: Slot has never experienced any of these individually leave alone together.

Slot has also never had to deal with a string of poor results – a testament to his qualities, but he has not been tested in the manner he now will be. So, how he reacts to adversity will only be known when he experiences it. Then there is the Kop and its special emotional charge that Klopp was able to tap into – Slot will not be expected to galvanise Liverpool fans immediately, but if he is to have any success on Merseyside, he will need to convince them fairly quickly.

Life after Klopp won't be easy for Liverpool – but the choice of Slot certainly makes it interesting.

GAME THEORY

Longest women's discus throws in history

Mykolas Alekna recently broke one of the longest standing men's athletics records in the discus throw, but the women's top mark, set in 1988, continues to survive. Gabriele Reinsch, the world record holder, accounts for three of the eight longest throws in history

Mark (metres)	Competitor	Date of birth	Venue	Date
76.80	Gabriele Reinsch	23 Sep 1963	Neubrandenburg	09 Jul 1988
74.56	Zdenka Silhava	15 Jun 1954	Nitra	26 Aug 1984
74.56	Ilke Wyludda	28 Mar 1969	Neubrandenburg	23 Jul 1989
74.44	Gabriele Reinsch	23 Sep 1963	Berlin	13 Sep 1988
74.40	Ilke Wyludda	28 Mar 1969	Berlin	13 Sep 1988
74.08	Diana Gansky	14 Dec 1963	Karl Marx Stadt	20 Jun 1987
73.90	Diana Gansky	14 Dec 1963	Praha	27 Jun 1987
73.42	Gabriele Reinsch	23 Sep 1963	Karl Marx Stadt	12 Jun 1988
73.36	Irina Meszynski	24 Mar 1962	Praha	17 Aug 1984
73.32	Diana Gansky	14 Dec 1963	Neubrandenburg	11 Jun 1987
73.28	Galina Savinkova	15 Jul 1953	Donetsk	08 Sep 1984
73.26	Galina Savinkova	15 Jul 1953	Leselidze	22 May 1983
73.26	Diana Gansky	14 Dec 1963	Neubrandenburg	06 Jun 1986
73.24	Diana Gansky	14 Dec 1963	Leipzig	29 May 1987
73.22	Tsvetanka Khristova	14 Mar 1962	Kazanlak	19 Apr 1987
73.16	Ilke Wyludda	28 Mar 1969	Berlin	13 Sep 1988
73.10	Gisela Beyer	16 Jul 1960	Berlin	20 Jul 1984
73.09	Yaime Perez	29 May 1991	Ramona (USA)	13 Apr 2024
73.04	Diana Gansky	14 Dec 1963	Potsdam	06 Jun 1987
73.04	Ilke Wyludda	28 Mar 1969	Gateshead	05 Aug 1989
72.96	Galina Savinkova	15 Jul 1953	Erfurt	23 Jun 1985
72.94	Diana Gansky	14 Dec 1963	Neubrandenburg	09 Jul 1988
72.92	Martina Hellmann	12 Dec 1960	Potsdam	20 Aug 1987
72.78	Martina Hellmann	12 Dec 1960	Neubrandenburg	11 Jun 1987
72.78	Gabriele Reinsch	23 Sep 1963	Berlin	29 Jun 1988
72.72	Ilke Wyludda	28 Mar 1969	Neubrandenburg	23 Jun 1989

SOURCE: WORLD ATHLETICS

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

The scenic route

A breakaway group passes through a picturesque part of Italy during the fifth stage of the 47th Tour of the Alps, an annual cycling stage race held in Italy and Austria.

The race, which features short and mountainous stages, is viewed as excellent competitive preparation for the contenders of the Giro d'Italia. Eleven winners have also won the Giro.

The first edition of the Tour of the Alps, which was then known as the Giro del Trentino and consisted of a single stage, was held in 1962.

After a second edition in 1963, the race — its official version — took a hiatus until 1979. It was only in 2017 that the race was branded as the Tour of the Alps. After its rebranding, the five-stage race formed a part of the UCI Europe Tour. It is now run as an event in the new UCI ProSeries.

The 47th edition was won by Real Betis fan Juan Pedro Lopez, the Spaniard breaking the dominance of the race by Italian cyclists, who have accounted for 29 wins.

"This is my first stage race victory," he said. "It's the [most] important one of my life, so I'm really happy."

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Rape accused absconding for 9 years arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Basavanagudi police have arrested a man charged with rape and kidnap, who was absconding for the last nine years. The accused has been identified as Tousif Ali Khan, 33.

The police said Khan was absconding from 2014 and the case against him was filed in 2011.

He was on bail in 2014 when he went missing. The police were unable to trace him as he changed his house.

The police said he was arrested on May 1 and produced before the court the next day. His case was scheduled as Long Pending Register. The accused was roaming around in Bengaluru hiding from the police, officials said.

Domestic help held for theft

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The J.P. Nagar police have arrested a domestic help who allegedly stole cash, diamond, gold and silver articles from the safe locker of a house she was working in.

The woman, identified as Manjula, 35, was working in the house for the past eight months.

According to the police, Manjula, who hails from Chamarajanagar, gained the confidence of the house owner, who runs a private school in the city. The house is located in J.P. Nagar 1st phase.

The police said on March 7, the wife of the house owner had kept gold, cash and diamond articles in the safe locker after the naming ceremony of her grandson. On April 4, when she opened the locker again, gold bangles and some cash was missing. Suspecting the role of the house help, the owner filed a complaint.

Seized

The police arrested the help and allegedly seized articles worth ₹ 35 lakh and ₹ 1 lakh cash. The police said she has been sent to judicial custody.

Rain lashes city for second consecutive day

While the forecast for the next 36 hours is partly cloudy sky, maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 38° C and 25° C, respectively

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Most parts of Bengaluru received rainfall, which resulted in a slight dip in the temperature. K. MURALI KUMAR AND BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Bringing relief and joy in a punishing summer season, Bengaluru received rain for the second consecutive day on Friday which also brought down the soaring summer temperature.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the city recorded thunderstorms with rain and strong gusty wind between 2.35 p.m. and 3.20 p.m.

The IMD observation data recorded at 5.30 p.m. stated that the Bengaluru City station received 17.2 mm rainfall, while Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and HAL Airport recorded trace and 0.3 mm rainfall, respectively. It added that Electronics City received 9 mm rainfall.

IMD Bengaluru Director N. Puviarasan said that most parts of the city received rainfall, which resulted in a slight dip in the temperature. "The minimum temperature had fallen down to 24.8° C and the maximum temperature recorded in Bengaluru city was 37 ° C," Mr. Puviarasan said.

On Friday, Bengaluru City station recorded a maximum and minimum of 37 ° C and 26.4° C. The maximum temperature at KIA was 37.5° C and the minimum was 27° C. The HAL Airport recorded a maximum and minimum of 36.6° C and 24.8° C.

In contrast, the IMD observation data recorded at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday stated that the three stations – Bengaluru City, Kempegowda International Airport, and HAL airport – had a maximum of 38.2° C, 39.1° C and 38.2° C, respectively, while the minimum recorded temperature was 25.5° C, 26.3° C and 25° C, respectively.

The relative humidity was 89% at Bengaluru city, 68% at KIA and 80% at HAL airport on Friday.

According to the forecast issued at 6 p.m. for Bengaluru city and the neighbourhood for the next 12 hours, there would be generally cloudy sky and light to moderate rain and thundershowers are very likely to occur towards evening and night.

While the forecast for the next 36 hours is partly cloudy sky, maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 38° C and 25° C, respectively.

"There would be rain in some districts of south interior Karnataka on May 4. After that, dry weather is expected to prevail and from May 7 onwards, we expect some rain," Mr. Puviarasan said.

20 electricity poles damaged

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 20 electricity poles were damaged in Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) region on Friday.

"In the K.G.F. division, two transformers were damaged, while 10 electricity poles were broken. Within city limits, five poles were damaged in Kothnur, four poles in Hesarghatta area and one pole in Fraser Town, as trees fell on these poles due to the strong winds," said a senior official from Bescom. The official said that the Bescom helpline number received 16,500 power related complaints on Friday, up to 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, around 12 tree falls were reported to the BBMP control room.

'Bengaluru most vulnerable to urban flooding'

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Amongst all the districts in south India, except for a few in Kerala, Bengaluru Urban district is the most vulnerable (0.57 vulnerability index) to flooding, based on data collected by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) between 1969 and 2019. In this 50-year period, Bengaluru Urban recorded 73 flood events while Bengaluru Rural district was not too far behind with 71 flood events.

Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts are followed by Dakshina Kannada (47), Uttara Kannada (40), Ballari and Raichur (36), and Kodagu and Kalburgi (34) when it comes to flooding events. However, all these floods are not the same type, as some districts are on the coast while rivers flow through others.

What makes a landlocked city like Bengaluru vulnerable to flooding?

A senior IMD Bengaluru official explained that there are four types of flooding - coastal, riverine, urban and flash floods. Bengaluru faces urban flooding. "This type of flooding is very common in cities due to increased urbanisation," A. Prasad, scientist, IMD Bengaluru told *The Hindu*.

"Due to increased demand for land and increasing population, urbanisation is on the rise in cities like Bengaluru. Due to this, rainwater often does not go where it is supposed to go, as it cannot find a route to reach various tributaries," Mr. Prasad explained.

The other main reason for urban flooding in Bengaluru is thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rainfall. "Bengaluru generally gets heavy rainfall, along with thunderstorms in a short period of time. Such thunderstorms are reported most often in May and September. During an inundation episode in Bellandur in 2022, the city received 80 mm of rainfall in just one hour. This kind of rainfall will definitely cause flooding," he said.

'Cannot avoid flooding'

The official said that avoiding urban flooding in Bengaluru is not a possibility. But, steps can be taken to mitigate its effects.

"Instead of how the weather will be, we (IMD) have started issuing impact-based forecast as to what the weather will do, as the rain does not have the same kind of effect in every region. We (IMD) issue warnings in advance, which can help in improving the response (to an event)," Mr. Prasad explained.

Experts agree that with factors like intensity of rain and crusting of the city increasing, strategic planning is necessary to keep flood events at bay in the future.

"Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) have jointly conducted a study. They have identified high flood areas along the storm water drains of both Vrushabhavathy and Dakshina Pinakini rivers. There are 250 hotspots that are currently in the red zone. The objective is to bring them to orange, and then green. Having adequate width of drainage to carry the water to a lake or river plays an important role in this strategy," said S. Vishwanath, water conservation expert.

He stressed on the importance of recharging ground water. He suggests ensuring that rainwater harvesting laws are strictly followed.

BBMP to engage in maintenance of drains in third week of every month

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike will be engaging in maintenance of primary and secondary drains in the third week of every month to check flooding during monsoon. This exercise will begin after May 10.

The BBMP also recently commenced cleaning of drains at select places as part of its monsoon preparedness exercise. The workers are now busy removing silt, leaves and dust from the drains in areas prone to flooding.

According to the BBMP, there are 800 km of drains which have to undergo maintenance annually and it takes at least three months to complete the process. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath talking to *The Hindu* said, "We have started the cleaning drive on priority in areas/junctions which are prone to flooding. The BBMP has data in connection with the same which requires immediate attention before the start of the rainy season."

Mr. Giri Nath said maintenance of primary and secondary drains are crucial as they are a major reason for flooding. As silt and waste are accumulated, the water will not flow smoothly, causing inundation. Keeping this in view, the BBMP has decided to conduct maintenance of drains during third week of every month.

However, a few residents complained of inconvenience due to the work and said work was commencing without prior intimation. Some residents who were away at work were phoned to remove their cars parked above the drains.

Sudarshan Yadav from J.P. Nagar said when the workers arrived, a car of his tenant was parked above the drain. "I had to call him to remove the car after which he had to send the car key through an online service. The BBMP should inform people before starting the work to avoid these problems," he said.

Youth held for impregnating Dalit girl

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The Hubballi police on Friday arrested a youth on the charge of impregnating a minor Dalit girl and threatening her mother with dire consequences. In her complaint, the girl's mother said her minor daughter had fallen in love with her former classmate and accused Saddam Hussein. However, he forcibly established physical relationship and impregnated her.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, MAY. 04	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:35
RISE 02:50	SET 15:02
SUNDAY, MAY. 05	
RISE 05:57	SET 18:35
RISE 03:33	SET 15:58
MONDAY, MAY. 06	
RISE 05:57	SET 18:36
RISE 04:16	SET 16:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	38	28
Mysuru	38	25
Bengaluru	38	25

Bengaluru Today
38°C Morning will be pleasant Day will be slight hot and uneasy. Night also will be comfortable. A dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
38°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight hot with uneasy afternoon. Night will comfortable

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TH Education Plus Career Counselling from May 11

The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling 2024

Place	Date	Venue	Address
Bengaluru Central	11/05/2024	Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya College of Science, Arts and Commerce	9, Race Course Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru
Mangaluru	11/05/2024	Geetha S.M. Shetty Hall	Ramakrishna College, Bunts Hostel Circle, Mangaluru
Raichur	11/05/2024	Navodaya Institute of Technology Auditorium	Navodaya Nagar, Bijanagera Road, Raichur
Mysuru	11/05/2024	Sahukar Chennaiah Auditorium	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, P.B. No. 206, Gokulam III Stage, Mysuru
Vijayapura	11/05/2024	BLDECET	BLDEA's V.P. Dr. P.G. Halakatti College of Engineering and Technology, Ashram Road, Adarsh Nagar
Bidar	18/05/2024	Sri Poojya Channa Basava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir	Near district stadium, Bidar
Tumakuru	19/05/2024	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru
Kalaburagi	19/05/2024	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan	Poojay Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan, Sharana Basava University, Kalaburagi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 22nd edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling 2024 will be held at eight locations in Karnataka from May 11.

The event will provide guidance on the UPSC exam, CET counselling, and NEET Counselling from the Karnataka Examination Authority while also providing career guidance on courses in Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Fashion Designing, Journalism, Animation, Performing Arts, Management, Engineering, Medicine, and Architecture.

Registration will be between 9 a.m. and 9.30 a.m, and the event from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Platinum Sponsor is Presidency University and Reva University. Gold Sponsors are Gitam University, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, RV University, SRM University AP, Mahindra University, Hindustan Group of Institutions Chennai, and Cambridge Institute of Technology.

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Karnataka GST not slowing down: Govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) L.K. Atheeq has clarified to businessman T.V. Mohandas Pai that Karnataka GST collection is not slowing down. This comes in the backdrop of the Mr. Pai expressing concern over the apparent slowdown in the growth rate of GST in Karnataka, which was 9% for the month of April.

In a recent statement made by the Ministry of Finance, it was announced that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collection for April 2024 had reached an unprecedented high, soaring to ₹2.10 lakh crore. The GST collections breached the landmark figure of ₹2 lakh crore for the first time. The data revealed a 12.4% year-on-year growth in gross revenue, with net revenue (after refunds) standing impressively at ₹1.92 lakh crore, showcasing a notable 17.1% year-on-year growth. In a tweet, directed at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others, Mr. Pai had highlighted the "worrisome trend" in Karnataka, citing April figures.

Mr. Atheeq contested Mr. Pai, saying that the figures cited by him pertained solely to April 2024 compared to April 2023. He cited data, presenting a comparative analysis of Karnataka's GST collection growth rate in the fiscal year 2023-24.

According to him, Karnataka witnessed an 18% growth rate in GST collection, outperforming the national average of 12%. He also juxtaposed Karnataka's growth with other States such as Maharashtra and Gujarat, both recording growth rates of 18% and 10% respectively.

From Page One

Revanna booked

Police teams are making all-out efforts to track down the woman and rescue her from possible illegal confinement. "Multiple special teams have been formed to search and rescue the woman, but we haven't had a breakthrough in the case yet. Time is of the essence. Her safety is also a concern," a police official involved in the probe said.

Meanwhile, the police have arrested Satish Babu, the second accused in the case. A Mysuru court has remanded him in 14 days judicial custody. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) will seek his police custody at the jurisdictional court in Bengaluru on Saturday. Mr. Revanna filed an application for anticipatory bail in the case at the Special Court for Elected Representatives, Bengaluru, on Friday.

He withdrew his anticipatory bail petition in the other case where he has been booked for sexual harassment, after the SIT argued that he was only booked under bailable sections in that FIR.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

T. R. Ramachandran
Former Editor and Publisher, Tattvaloka, the Splendour of Truth merged with the Divine on 03-05-2024
A Karma Yogi and Naishtika Brahmachari who strove lifelong to spread the Vedic wisdom at the command of the Jagadgurus of Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri.
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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, CHANDRASHEKAR Singh Yadav S/o Ramjanam Yadav R/A Army Digital Mapping centre Bangalore, Hereby declare that My daughter actual date of birth is 27.12.2005 and not 12.04.2006, vide affidavit Dated 22/12/2022, before Y.R. Chandrashekar. Bangalore-560032

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANTOSH, r/at No.42, 3rd Cross, Gokulnagar, Kanakapura Main Road, Konanakunte Cross, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my son name from Aadyant to Aadyanth Santosh vide affidavit dtd 18.03.2024 sworn before Notary G.B.Turamari, B'luru

I, AVNISH KAROTH, S/o. Suresh Babu Gopalan Karoth, R/at 112, OMBR Layout, Bang-43 have changed my name from AVNISH KAROTH SURESH to AVNISH KAROTH for all my future purposes by affidavit 02-05-2024 before notary Chandrasekar Y R.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GANESAN Father of Army Service No.16120841F Rank:LNK Name:Anbazhagan G, R/at Vill: Venkatagovndanoor Post: Chandrapuram, Taluk: Tirupattur, District: Vellor,Tamil Nadu today in Bengaluru have changed my name from Ganesan to Ganesan Kuppan vide affidavit dt: 02/05/2024 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

I, MAGESH Mother of Army Service No.16120841F Rank:LNK Name:Anbazhagan G, R/at Vill: Venkatagovndanoor Post: Chandrapuram, Taluk: Tirupattur, District: Vellor,Tamil Nadu today in Bengaluru have changed my name from Magesh to Mageswari Ganesan vide affidavit dt: 02/05/2024 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

I, RAJATH.R, S/o Late Rajesh.G, R/at No.10 4184, Flat No.102, 2nd Cross E Block, Near Canara Bank, Subramanyanagar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore North-560010, have changed my name from Rajath.R to Rrajath Rajesh vide affidavit dated 01/05/2024 before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

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thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

Sculpture station

Creations in stone and bronze

The Hindu Bureau

The Purple Turtles

The home decor brand has collaborated with artist and designer Bala Nivetha to host a tulip sculpture painting workshop in Chennai. Participants will learn to sculpt using sculpture-paste and palette knives, and they can take home the masterpiece they create. All materials will be provided.

The workshop will be held today from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at The Purple Turtles.

Cost: From ₹2499 onwards

thepurpleturtles.com

Stone Art

The home decor brand that specialises in stone creations is out with a new Bronze Collection. It comprises intricately crafted bronze figurines that come in various designs, from a man and woman intimately embracing, to a group of five figurines hand in hand.

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www.stoneart.asia

Cutting costs with green buildings

Building technologist Mili Majumdar, who was recently honoured with IIT Madras' Distinguished Alumnus Award, says a construction should address the concerns of embodied carbon

R. Sujatha

Even as the construction industry is booming, can the country's commitment to reduce carbon emissions be met? Green building advocates say a building should be operational and address the concerns of embodied carbon.

Arresting emissions

Building technologist Mili Majumdar, a votary for sustainable buildings, explains that embodied carbon is the amount of carbon emitted during the life of building materials. It includes concrete, steel and insulation materials.

The carbon dioxide released during extraction, manufacturing, transport, construction and disposal of all construction materials contributes to embodied carbon emission.

Majumdar was involved in developing methods to rate buildings based on their ability to reduce carbon emission. She is credited with developing GRIHA (green rating for integrated habitat assessment) during her tenure at The Energy Resource Institute, a non-government organisation.

Can residential buildings be green buildings? Yes, says Majumdar.

India has developed several codes such as the National Building Code and the Energy Efficiency Code.

Buildings that comply with the codes would lead to a sustainable environment, she points out. The problem is that "developers are introducing newer methods as they are faster, quicker and easier, but they are not necessarily energy efficient."

Majumdar was recently in Chennai to receive the distinguished alumni award presented by her alma mater, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, where she completed her post-graduation in civil engineering.

She graduated in architecture from Jadhavpur University, Kolkata. She is currently the managing director, Green Building Council India, and senior vice president, US Green Building Council.

Regenerative materials

She cites the United Nations Environment Programme report that says 37% of global emissions are from building materials such as cement, steel and aluminium.

One of the methods is shifting to regenerative materials. The current methods of construction would require further layers of insulation and add greenhouse gas emissions.

Mili Majumdar

Builders must comply with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency codes for the envelope of residential and commercial constructions, she explains. The envelope of a residential building includes the foundation that supports the structure; the exterior walls; the roof; windows and doors. A sustainable building is one which is insulated against the vagaries of weather. "An effective envelope provides physical protection from climate, indoor air quality, durability and energy efficiency," she adds.

"You can have a zero-energy building by lowering your consumption to minimum and offset with renewable energy. You can produce equal to what you generate," says Majumdar.

"This can be done by introducing energy efficiency measures; reducing energy demand; and moving towards 100% use of renewable energy. Green is a combination of materials, indoor environmental policy, waste management, embodied carbon, urban heat island, water... there are so many things that you look at holistically," she adds.

Green buildings

Construction in cities has moved far from the conventional methods of cross-ventilation. "In a village, ventilation to lower energy use would be correct. But think of a place like Delhi. When the outdoor pollution is high, what will happen to the indoor air quality?" she asks. She notes that despite specific and elaborate codes for sustainable buildings, the compliance is not full. Green buildings do not cost more than conventional structures, she points out.

By using lightweight materials (such as alloys of metals, polymers), reusing demolished material from construction sites, and complying with green building regulations, builders can reduce cost.

"We have energy conservation code and environment clearance requirement. A mandate alone is not good enough if we do not have implementation. For that you need a lot of awareness and capacity building also so that people can implement it," says Majumdar.

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Prajwal threatened to kill my husband and me, says political worker

She claims that she was forced to have sex with the Janata Dal (S) leader multiple times between January 1, 2021 and April 25, 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the rape case registered against Prajwal Revanna in Bengaluru on May 1, a 44-year-old political worker has accused the Hassan MP of raping her in his official quarters in Hassan city in 2021.

The complainant told the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) that the Janata Dal (Secular) leader allegedly threatened to kill her and her husband if she did not cooperate before raping her at the MP quarters in Hassan city in 2021.

She alleged that Prajwal Revanna recorded the sexual act on his phone and was blackmailing her with the footage, forcing her to have sex with him multiple times between January 1, 2021, and April 25, 2024.

In her complaint, the woman claimed that she had not complained fearing for her life and that of her husband's.

> Prajwal Revanna told me to strip, to which I said I will scream for help. He claimed to have a gun, and that he would finish both my husband and me if I did not cooperate. He held my hand and forced himself on me.
>
> **44-YEAR-OLD POLITICAL WORKER**

Complaint registered

She registered a complaint in Bengaluru on May 1 with the CID after a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was set up by the government of Karnataka to investigate alleged multiple instances of sexual abuse by Prajwal Revanna.

Prajwal Revanna has been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code., including Section 376 (2) (n) for "committing rape repeatedly on the same woman", Section 354 (B) for "assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe", Section 354 (C) for 'capturing the image of a woman in a private act against her will', and various sections of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Woman's version

In her complaint, the woman claimed she met Prajwal Revanna, MP for Hassan, in 2021 seeking seats for some women students in a hostel.

"The MP was in a hurry and did not meet me. He asked me to come back the next day. Next day, when I went to the MP quarters in Hassan town, it was full of visitors. His staff told me to wait on the first floor where women were there. Prajwal Revanna spoke with everyone. As they left one by one, I was alone with him. He called me to his room. I went in. He locked the room, to which I resisted. He told me to advise my husband to lie low politically. He told me to strip, to which I said I will scream for help. He claimed to have a gun, and that he would finish both me and my husband if I did not cooperate. He held my hand and forced himself on me, despite me resisting," she alleged in her complaint.

She added that Prajwal Revanna took out his mobile phone and recorded the sexual act of raping her.

"He told me that he would keep the video and would make it public if I told of the sexual abuse to anyone. He told me that his face was not visible in the video and that only I was visible. He told me that I had to have sex with him whenever he called, now that he had the video. He used to make video calls to me and tell me to strip, and harassed me. He has sexually assaulted me multiple times in these years, blackmailing me that he would make the video public," she alleged.

Victim forcibly taken away on April 29 night, alleges son

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MYSURU

The now missing alleged rape victim of Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna was forcibly taken away by a person identified as Satish Babu, a resident of K.R. Nagar, her 20-year-old son alleged in his complaint to K.R. Nagar police on Thursday night. Babu, known to the victim and now arrested, took her away on the night of April 29 and she has been incommunicado since then, the complainant has said.

The complainant said his mother worked as a maid at JD(S) leader and former Minister H.D. Revanna's (father of Prajwal Revanna) house in Holenarasipur and their farm for six years.

She left that job three years ago and returned to her village where she worked as a coolie.

The complaint said Satish Babu, known to the family, came to their house 3-4 days before elections and took his mother to Holenarasipur saying Bhavani Revanna, Mr. H.D. Revanna's wife, had summoned her.

"Babanna dropped my mother to our house on the morning of polling day. He told my parents not to tell anything to the police if they came to our house and threatened us that we will be booked in a case and asked us to alert him if the police came," the complaint said.

However, according to the complaint, Satish Babu came to their house again around 9 p.m. April 29. "He said if my mother is caught by the police it would become a case and all of us will go to jail. He said Revanna has asked him to bring my mother. He forced my mother and took her on his bike," the complainant said.

> Satish Babu on the instructions of H.D. Revanna has kidnapped my mother and is holding her illegally at an undisclosed location. There is threat to her life and I request the police to rescue her and take action against the two of them.
>
> **VICTIM'S 20-YEAR-OLD SON**

Further, he said that he discovered through his friends and two brothers-in-law on May 1 that a video of his mother being allegedly raped by Prajwal Revanna was being circulated. "They told me that despite my mother pleading with him to spare her, Prajwal Revanna had raped her," he said. "When I called him and asked him to bring back my mother, he had no proper answer."

"Satish Babu on the instructions of H.D. Revanna has kidnapped my mother and is holding her illegally at an undisclosed location. There is threat to her life and I request the police to rescue her and take action against the two of them," the complainant said.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
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BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Bureau of Indian Standards Resource Support Training Programme

Bengaluru branch of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards body of India organised Resource Support Training Orientation Programme at conference Room of BIS. 26 participants from various districts of Karnataka gathered in the conclave. This meeting was intented to familarize the RST members with various activities of BIS. MrVijayveeran K, Director & Head BNBO, presented in his inaugural speech that standards are important to achieve the sustainable development goals. Mrs Vinodini Kishore, Scientist-D/Joint Director,BIS and Mr Suresh N, faculty for the event also explained about the event and gave presentations. The programme concluded with healthy feedbacks from the participants and enthusiastic and energetic vibes for spreading the message of awareness further for building a quality ecosystem in the country.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Rolls Out Akshaya Tritiya Special Jewellery & Offers

In celebration of Akshaya Tritiya, the auspicious occasion of prosperity and abundance, Malabar Gold & Diamonds brings exquisite jewellery collections and exclusive offers. Customers can get up to 25% off on making charges for gold jewellery, a flat 25% off on making charges on the purchase of Precia/Era studded jewellery, and up to 25% off on the diamond value on the purchase of diamond jewellery. These enticing offers are valid from April 27th to May 12th. Plus, customers can take home a free* silver coin, adding an extra gleam to the celebrations. Malabar also assures a 0% deduction on exchange and 1% deduction on buyback of gold. As part of the celebration, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will be showcasing exquisite picks from exclusive brands such as Mine

Diamond Jewellery, Era Uncut Diamond Jewellery, Divine Heritage Jewellery, Ethnix Handcrafted Jewellery, Precia Gemstone Jewellery, and Viraaz Polki Jewellery. Customers also have the opportunity to purchase 23 & 24 KT HUID hallmarked gold coins, ensuring responsible sourcing and quality assurance. Additionally, the One India One Gold Rate scheme guarantees uniform pricing for gold across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds stores nationwide.

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Madhu's poser to Kumar

BJP leader Kumar Bangarappa, who is campaigning against his sister Geetha Shivarajkumar, the Congress candidate, has often questioned why she did not shift her vote to Shivamogga.

"Geetha being the candidate in Shivamogga, went to Bengaluru to cast her vote. Why could she not shift her vote, at least even after deciding to contest from Shivamogga?" he asked. He also remarked that his sister would lose the contest and vacate her house in Shivamogga soon after the election. Minister Madhu Bangarappa reacted to his brother's comment by asking if PM Narendra Modi casts his vote in Varanasi, the constituency he chose to contest. He also asked why Mr. Kumar Bangarappa had remained silent all these days and came out to speak days before polling.

Geetha Shivarajkumar, the Congress candidate in Shivamogga.

Heat wave: BJP for extending polling hours

The BJP has petitioned the Election Commission of India seeking an extension of the polling hours in the 14 Lok Sabha constituencies in Karnataka that are going to the polls on May 7 due to prevailing heat wave.

The BJP delegation appealed to the EC to allow voting from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. as people would find it difficult to come to the polling booths during the summer heat, especially during the afternoon and early evening hours. In the petition, the BJP pointed out that the temperature had touched a high of 37° to 42° degrees Celsius in these constituencies. It expressed fear that such heat wave conditions may reduce the voting percentage. The EC has extended poll timings in Telangana by an hour in the wake of heat wave.

"You [NDA partners] gave ticket to Prajwal knowing well that he is a rapist. People of the State are asking if this is the way to protect girls.

SIDDARAMAIAH, Chief Minister

'No moral right to wear *gongadi*'

At rally at Ranebennur on Friday, CM Siddaramaiah took exception to PM Narendra Modi wearing a 'gongadi' (blanket made of sheep wool) saying that he had no moral right to wear it as none from the Kuruba community, including K.S. Eshwarappa's son K.E. Kantesh, had been given ticket by the BJP to contest the LS polls.

"Why are you dragging the Prime Minister into this? If CM and Dy. CM are going to make random statements, why set up an SIT to probe it at all?

H.D. KUMARASWAMY, former Chief Minister

Taking a stand: The Joint Action Committee of Kasarkod Fishermen Associations at Honnavar in Uttara Kannada district has given a call to its members to boycott polling. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Fishermen threaten to boycott polling over CRZ norms 'violation'

Raghava M.
MANGALURU

The Joint Action Committee of Kasarkod Fishermen Associations at Honnavar has given a call to its members to boycott the Lok Sabha elections in Uttara Kannada on May 7, accusing the Union government and the Karnataka government of not taking action against a special purpose vehicle (SPV) developing the Honnavar port for allegedly violating coastal regulatory zone (CRZ) norms.

Committee president Rajesh Govind Tandel said the Department of Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport in 2010 allotted the port land on contract to two companies for 30 years for development, operation, and maintenance. Honnavar Port Pvt. Ltd., an SPV, was formed for the purpose.

In over 13 years, Mr. Tandel alleged, the project has not been completed and all the permission that had been taken stand expired. The SPV has failed to renew the permission and work is being done by violating the CRZ norms, he alleged. The works of developing a road connecting the port with the National Highway 66 (Kawar-Mangaluru) will harm the ecology. There are fears that the project will threaten the breeding of eco-sensitive Olive Ridley turtles on the Kasarkod beach. Fishermen have expressed their fears over the port project coming in the way of dry fish business, he said.

Protesting fishermen booked

When anguished fishermen staged a protest against the project a few days ago, cases were booked and protesters arrested. The fishermen are also unhappy over the way the authorities did a survey of buildings coming within the boundary of the Honnavar Port, Mr. Tandel said.

Port clarifies

However, in a statement, Director of the Department of Ports Captain C. Swamy, said the development of Honnavar port would neither harm the fishing harbour and fishing activities nor cause any impediment to the movement of fishing boats.

The project taken up at a cost of ₹1,000 crore by the two firms is intended to harness the cargo handling capacity of the Honnavar port, which, in turn, will bring more revenue to the State government and improve the quality of living of the locals. The construction of breakwaters in the northern and southern parts of the port area would bring stability to the movement of fishing boats and avoid loss of human lives and damage to fishing boats, he said.

He said, following a report of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai, that there are no Olive Ridley turtle nesting sites in the project area, the Karnataka High Court in November 2021 rejected a petition seeking cancellation of environment clearance certificate granted by the State-level Environment Impact Assessment Authority of Karnataka.

The National Green Tribunal, Southern Bench, in September 2023 disposed of, by setting some conditions, a petition that had expressed concern on the harm to environment by constructing a 4-km-long road connecting the port and NH 66, he added.

Neha murder is not an isolated one but part of a conspiracy, says Shah

Union Home Minister asks the State govt. to hand over the Hubballi student killing case to the CBI if it cannot probe the crime

TALKING POINT

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Alleging that the Congress government in Karnataka is trying to "hush up" the brutal murder of student Neha Hiremath by branding it as an individual crime, Union Home Minister Amit Shah called it "part of a conspiracy" and said that if the State government cannot investigate the crime, the case should be transferred to the CBI.

He said the victim's parents had told him that her murder was committed because she refused to convert to Islam, the religion of the attacker. "The police in Karnataka, which is ruled by the Congress, should properly investigate by keeping such facts in mind. Otherwise, the State government should transfer the case to the CBI... Then we will take strict action," Mr. Shah said.

He was speaking at a BJP campaign rally at Hukkeri to seek votes for Annasaheb Jolle, the party candidate.

Induction: Union Home Minister Amit Shah welcoming Vivek Rao Patil, former MLC, into the BJP at a party rally at Hukkeri in Belagavi district on Friday. P.K. BADIGER

Interestingly, he asked the crowd to defeat the Congress candidate in Chikkodi, Priyanka Jarkiholi, as her family is allegedly involved in large-scale irregularities.

He asks the crowd to defeat Chikkodi Congress candidate Priyanka Jarkiholi as her family is allegedly involved in irregularities

"They are involved in illegal mining and have encroached thousands of hectares of government land, promoted and protected illicit liquor-making gangs and *hafta* (protection money) collectors. Such people should be defeated," he said. While Satish Jarkiholi, the candidate's father, is with the Congress, her two uncles – Ramesh Jarkiholi and Balachandra Jarkiholi – are with the BJP. Another mining baron, B. Janardhana Reddy, is also now part of the BJP. Mr. Shah also said that those who "repeatedly insult Hinduism and its rituals" and "insult heroes like Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Maharaj" should be defeated.

Mr. Shah welcomed Vivek Rao Patil, former MLC and Kuruba community leader, into the BJP. Mr. Patil was an Independent MLC who had supported the Congress in the past. He is considered a loyalist of Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi.

Issues of poverty, inflation back in Cong. campaign trail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After several days of political slugfest over alleged sexual abuse by JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, the State Congress on Friday changed the campaign track and blasted the BJP for its lack of concern for the poor and downtrodden.

The issues of poverty, unemployment, and inflation had taken a backseat during the campaign for the last few days and the alleged sexual abuse by Mr. Prajwal Revanna and the murder of student Neha Hiremath dominated the electoral theme of both the Congress and the BJP.

At an election rally at Mundagod in Uttara Kannada, KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar alleged that the Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had neglected the poor and many people had lost their lives owing to poor management of COVID-19 pandemic. He also alleged rampant corruption in the management of COVID-19 vaccination drives.

"The only achievement of the BJP was to kill Karnataka-origin banks such as Corporation Bank, Vijaya Bank, and SyndicateBank by merging them with other nationalised banks," Mr. Shivakumar alleged.

"The BJP government contributed to the high prices of essential commodities but we tried to alleviate people's pain with five guarantee schemes," he claimed.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, at the same programme, said that while the Modi-led government did not agree to provide rice to the people of Karnataka, it was now asking for votes. "We have formulated programmes and guarantees for the lives of the poor, labourers, women, and farmers of all castes and religions," he said.

Anjanadri 'development' becomes part of poll narrative

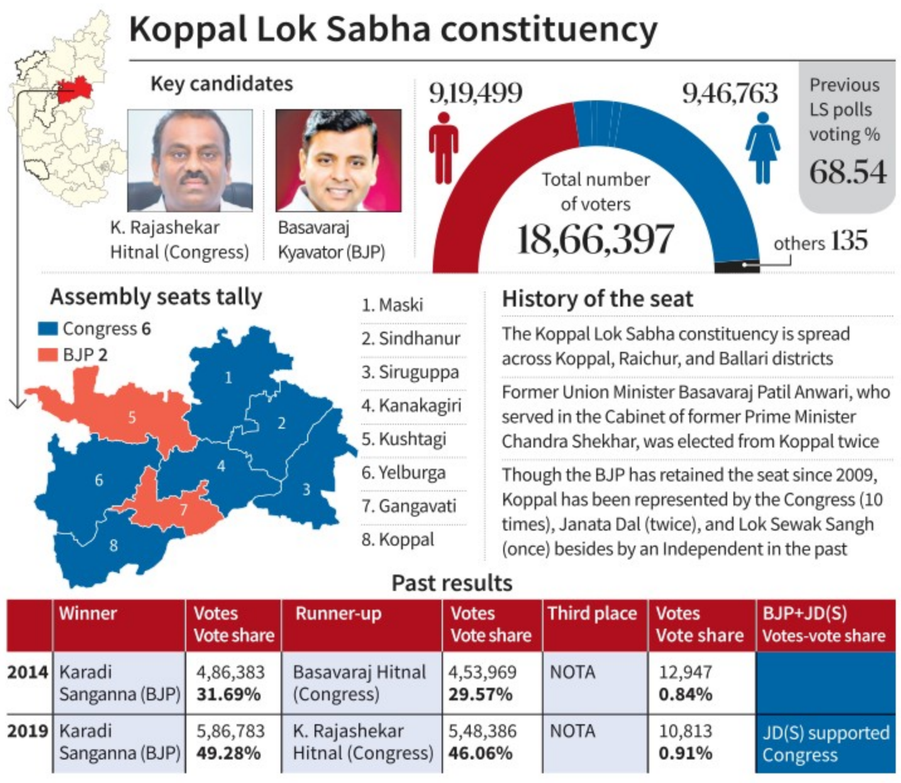
Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

With the third phase of parliamentary elections around the corner, Anjanadri, believed by the devout to be the birthplace of Hanuman, has come into the election focus in Koppal. Amid the Congress' guarantee schemes challenging the BJP's "Modi development" narrative that has now morphed into Hindutva, the Koppal Lok Sabha constituency is poised for a close finish.

Spread across Koppal, Raichur, and Ballari districts, the Koppal Lok Sabha constituency has a mix of large tracts of dry and arid region and the irrigated parts of Gangavati and Sindhanur areas which have been affected differently by the drought this year. Basavaraj Kyavator, an orthopaedic surgeon, who replaced incumbent MP Karadi Sanganna as the BJP candidate, is taking on Congress' K. Rajashekar Hitnal, who had earlier lost to Mr. Sanganna in the 2019 parliamentary polls.

The election campaign by the candidates which appeared mostly scripted – similar to many other constituencies that have witnessed "Modi agenda" versus the "benefits of the guarantee schemes" – has over the last few days veered towards Anjanadri, with both camps turning their attention to the development of the hillock along the Tungabhadra.

While the BJP – invoking the consecration of the Ram temple at Ayodhya recently – has been claiming credit for releasing ₹100 crore towards the development of Anjanadri, the Congress has been pointing out that only ₹22 crore has been released so far and the Congress government has also earmarked ₹100 crore for the pilgrimage centre's development. The Congress has also questioned the sole claim of the BJP over Lord Hanuman.


Koppal Lok Sabha constituency
Key candidates
K. Rajashekar Hitnal (Congress)
Basavaraj Kyavator (BJP)
9,19,499
9,46,763
Total number of voters
18,66,397
others 135
Previous LS polls voting %
68.54
Assembly seats tally
Congress 6
BJP 2
1. Maski
2. Sindhanur
3. Siruguppa
4. Kanakagiri
5. Kushtagi
6. Yelburga
7. Gangavati
8. Koppal
History of the seat
The Koppal Lok Sabha constituency is spread across Koppal, Raichur, and Ballari districts
Former Union Minister Basavaraj Patil Anwari, who served in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, was elected from Koppal twice
Though the BJP has retained the seat since 2009, Koppal has been represented by the Congress (10 times), Janata Dal (twice), and Lok Sewak Sangh (once) besides by an Independent in the past

Past results

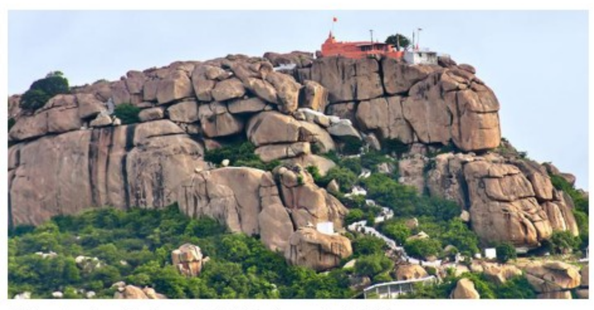
	Winner	Votes Vote share	Runner-up	Votes Vote share	Third place	Votes Vote share	BJP+JD(S) Votes-vote share
2014	Karadi Sanganna (BJP)	4,86,383 **31.69%**	Basavaraj Hitnal (Congress)	4,53,969 **29.57%**	NOTA	12,947 **0.84%**	
2019	Karadi Sanganna (BJP)	5,86,783 **49.28%**	K. Rajashekar Hitnal (Congress)	5,48,386 **46.06%**	NOTA	10,813 **0.91%**	JD(S) supported Congress

Issues that do not figure

On the other hand, the enormous delay in the Upper Krishna Project-II that would irrigate large tracts of rain-fed area in the otherwise dry Koppal district or meagre employment opportunity that triggers migration from Kanakagiri, Kushtagi, and Yelburga or other local issues do not figure in the campaign. The drought-triggered crisis this year is also not an issue being touched upon locally. Migration happens every year since the wages locally are very low and employment opportunities are limited. This year, due to drought, it has only increased.

The Congress, with six legislators in the parliamentary constituency, is hoping to wrest the seat from the BJP that has won here since 2009. Mr. Sanganna, the two-time BJP MP, who had defeated Mr. Rajashekar Hitnal by a slender margin of about 37,000 votes in 2019, and defeated Mr. Rajashekar Hitnal's father, Basavaraj Hitnal, by about 33,000 votes in 2014, has switched sides. The Congress hopes that his entry to the party will enable the division of Veerashaiva-Lingayat votes to favour the party's fortune. Incidentally, over the last three decades, the constituency witnessed electoral battles between the Hitnal family and the Sanganna family, and the feud looks to be buried now. Their battle was on the caste lines with the Veerashaiava-Lingayats backing their community leader Mr. Sanganna and Kurubas sticking with the Hitnals. Mr. Rajashekar Hitnal's brother Raghavendra Hitnal is the Congress legislator from Koppal.

However, the BJP is hoping to retain the seat since it has replaced Mr. Sanganna with Dr. Kyavator, who is also a Panchamasali Lingayat like the former. Though Mr. Kyavator is seen as a rookie, he comes from a family of politicians. His father K. Sharanappa is a former Janata Dal (Secular) legislator from Kushtagi while his brother is a former zilla panchayat member.



A file photo of Anjanadri hill in Koppal district.

Reddy's return impact

While Gangavati legislator G. Janardhana Reddy has returned to the BJP fold by merging his Karnataka Rajya Pragathi Paksha, it is not expected to help the BJP much as he had been supported by Muslims too in the Assembly elections, and their votes will not be transferred to the BJP now. "The Muslims expected Mr. Reddy to join the Congress and he had also supported the the Congress during the Rajya Sabha elections. However, they are unhappy after he rejoined the BJP," a political observer pointed out. Mr. Reddy had also promised to develop Anjanadri from his personal funds, which has not been taken up, upsetting many Hindus.

Police file closure report in Rohith Vemula death case

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Gachibowli police of the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate has filed the closure report of the University of Hyderabad research scholar Rohith Vemula Chakravarthy, who ended his life in a hostel room on January 17, 2016.

The Gachibowli police, collating its various findings, including contentions whether Rohith Vemula belonged to a Scheduled Caste, and if the accused persons – members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, BJP, and the university top officials – were responsible for his suicide, cited 'lack of evidence' and filed the closure report before the court on March 21.

A copy of the report was obtained by *The Hindu* on Friday. As per the report, Rohith Vemula had multiple issues worrying him and they would have driven him to end his life.

According to the report, the police investigated 11 questions, primarily the allegations made by the complainant, leader of Ambedkar Students' Association Dontha Prashanth.

The police ruled out that Rohith Vemula belonged to Scheduled Caste.

"The suicide did not relate to any activities of the university administration or political leaders, including Vice-Chancellor Appa Rao Podile. It was wholly a decision of his own. His suicide note shows that he was not happy with the worldly affairs," the report said.

Cong. releases State-specific manifesto in Telangana

The party also promised to take up the Rapid Rail transit system running parallel to the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway as assured in the A.P. Reorganisation Act 2014

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Going local: Congress leaders releasing Telangana-specific manifesto in Hyderabad on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Revival of the Information Technology and Investment Region (ITIR) project in Hyderabad, remerging five Andhra Pradesh villages into Telangana and a Bench of the Supreme Court in Hyderabad are the major promises of the Congress party that released a Telangana-specific manifesto in Hyderabad on Friday.

IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu, who is also chairman of the Manifesto Committee released the manifesto along with All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Telangana Deepa Dasmunshi and Adviser to State government Vem Narender Reddy. Mr. Babu said the five villages of the Bhadrachalam mandal, transferred to A.P. after the State reorganisation in 2014, would be transferred back for the speedy development of the temple town of Bhadrachalam. He said these promises would be fulfilled once the Congress comes back to power at the Centre.

The ITIR project was sanctioned by the Manmohan Singh government for Hyderabad as a part of the State bifurcation with the aim to create an IT corridor to create employment to lakhs of youngsters. It also argued that it would change the face of Telangana given the huge investments that would brought in.

The party also promised to take up the Rapid Rail transit system running parallel to the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway as assured in the A.P. Reorganisation Act 2014.

Other promises

The party also promised the transfer of Central funds directly to gram panchayats as per the 73rd and 74th amendments of the Indian Constitution. It also promised national status for the Sammakka-Saarakka tribal festival.

Swell waves likely to strike coastal areas over weekend: INCOIS

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on Friday alerted the coastal States of Goa, Maharastra West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshwadeep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, of the possibility of high-energy swell waves over the weekend.

It also urged "total suspension of operational/recreational activities at beach/nearshore regions" on Saturday and Sunday.

Fishermen and coastal populations have been advised to be cautious about a possible surge of waves, such as gushing of sea water intermittently in the nearshore or beach regions, particularly in low-lying areas.

Senior scientist and Group Director T. Balakrishnan Nair said high-period swells had started approximately 10,000 km away from the Indian coast on April 26 in the southern Atlantic Ocean. This had caused "high-energy swell propagation" towards the Indian coastal regions which is expected to hit the southern tip of India in the early hours of Saturday. These long-period swells combined with high tide conditions can cause coastal flooding in low-lying areas, he said.

Hyderabad-based INCOIS has issued an alert to coastal States on the possibility of swell surges and rough sea conditions. FILE PHOTO

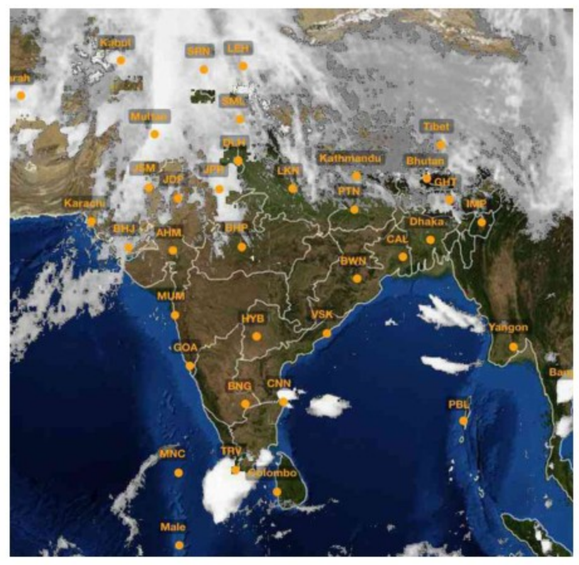
Small vessels should not be plying nearshore and boats may be anchored at a fair distance from each other to avoid damage, he added.

Meanwhile, coastal communities in Kerala were advised to remain vigilant with State being put on red alert for high-energy swell waves. The phenomenon, known locally as '*Kallakadal*' (rogue sea), is likely to last till 11.30 p.m. on Sunday. Low-lying areas could experience 0.5 metre to 1.7-metre high swell waves.

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) issued directions for suspending recreational activities along the beaches. Coastal residents have also been advised to temporarily evacuate if the need arises. This is the first instance of a red alert being issued for the State in connection with the *Kallakadal* phenomenon, KSDMA member secretary Sekhar Kuriakose said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Sikkim, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, central Maharashtra and interior Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	37.2	23.6	Kozhikode	—	37.5	31.3
Ahmedabad	—	41.7	25.6	Kurnool	—	45.9	31.2
Aizawl	6	34.0	20.0	Lucknow	—	38.3	21.1
Allahabad	—	40.4	20.9	Madurai	—	40.1	28.6
Bengaluru	—	37.0	26.4	Mangaluru	—	34.4	27.4
Bhopal	—	39.1	22.2	Mumbai	—	33.0	24.3
Bhubaneswar	—	41.6	27.6	Mysuru	—	38.3	26.0
Chandigarh	—	36.0	18.2	New Delhi	—	38.1	18.3
Chennai	—	40.2	28.4	Patna	—	39.7	23.7
Coimbatore	—	39.0	28.0	Port Blair	—	34.4	26.3
Dehradun	—	36.0	17.6	Puducherry	—	37.8	28.9
Gangtok	—	24.2	14.8	Pune	—	41.0	21.0
Goa	—	33.6	25.2	Raipur	—	41.4	24.7
Guwahati	—	34.6	21.4	Ranchi	—	36.7	23.0
Hubballi	—	40.0	22.0	Shillong	—	26.5	14.5
Hyderabad	—	43.6	27.1	Shimla	—	27.0	14.5
Imphal	18	30.3	15.1	Srinagar	—	20.6	7.8
Jaipur	—	38.7	24.1	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.7	30.2
Kochi	—	33.4	30.6	Tiruchi	—	40.7	29.0
Kohima	1	24.0	—	Vijayawada	—	41.5	29.4
Kolkata	—	39.3	28.8	Visakhapatnam	—	35.5	29.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	—	.29	223	142	
Bengaluru	.10	.17	.24	149	116	
Chennai	9	9	.90	72	66	
Delhi	.49	117	.50	269	350	
Hyderabad	7	.38	.45	109	122	
Kolkata	.13	.30	.56	53	91	
Lucknow	6	.47	.22	279	149	
Mumbai	8	.55	.12	131	162	
Pune	.80	.99	117	49	44	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.28	.17	43	95	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 345 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Silchar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 42

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

THE HINDU GROUP

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Sexual crimes, videos

The sexual assault cases in Karnataka must be investigated with sensitivity

The Karnataka police and the State administration must act with utmost sensitivity, professionalism, and swiftness to ensure the safety and the privacy of the women who have complained of multiple counts of rape and sexual harassment by Prajwal Revanna, the now suspended Janata Dal (Secular) party leader, the sitting Member of Parliament from Hassan, Karnataka, and grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda. While the State government acted promptly by seeking cancellation of Mr. Revanna's diplomatic passport, the Special Investigation Team (SIT), formed to inquire into the rape and sexual harassment charges, must ensure the videos of these allegedly forced sexual acts that show Mr. Revanna with several women are immediately taken down and the identities of the women protected. In the past few years, allegations of sexual misconduct by those holding high office have made distressing headlines. These are a reminder of the highly unequal power dynamics and political influence that make it difficult to bring the perpetrators to account. The multiple complaints and charges against sitting Member of Parliament from the Bharatiya Janata Party in Kaiserganj, Uttar Pradesh, and former President of the Wrestling Federation of India, Brij Bhushan Saran Singh, serve as an example.

Survivors of sexual abuse rarely come forward to complain. And when they do, it is often when their trauma is unbearable, or when they have familial support, or if they feel confident that justice is likely to be served, while they seek privacy and safety. When a survivor files a complaint, it emboldens others to speak up, especially when it involves serial offenders. The police are finding it difficult in getting many of the women in the videos to register a complaint. Both Mr. Revanna and his father and sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly, H.D. Revanna from Holenarasipur in Karnataka, have been summoned by the SIT – Prajwal Revanna on rape charges, and his father for kidnapping an alleged victim-turned-complainant. Given such grave charges, it would be in the fitness of things for both leaders to resign from public office till the investigation is complete.

Policy mismatch

The U.S. must not arm Israel while asking it to halt Gaza strikes

When the Israel-Hamas war began on October 7, the immediate priority of United States President Joe Biden was to prevent the conflict from widening into a regional war involving Israel and its rivals. Mr. Biden adopted a two-fold strategy. He offered unconditional support for Israel's war on Gaza, launched after Hamas's attack on October 7, in which at least 1,200 people were killed, and unleashed a diplomatic effort to keep tensions low between Tel Aviv and its neighbours. But when the war raged on for months, with huge civilian casualties in Gaza, the Biden policy started falling apart. Today, as the war is set to enter its eighth month, Mr. Biden looks increasingly vulnerable to its regional and domestic consequences. Over 34,000 people, a vast majority of them women and children, have been killed by the Israeli Defense Forces in Gaza; Israel vows to invade Rafah, the southernmost town in Gaza where more than 1.4 million Palestinians have taken refuge, despite Mr. Biden's warning against such a move; with Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea and strikes and counterstrikes between Israel and Iran, the conflict has already spread beyond the borders of Palestinian territories and Israel, though a full-scale regional war has been avoided so far; the conflict has triggered massive protests by university students in the U.S., piling up pressure on Mr. Biden to reconsider his policy towards Israel.

To their credit, Biden officials have been working relentlessly to achieve a ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas. Mr. Biden's timely response to shoot down the drones and missiles fired by Iran against Israel and his warning to the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, that the U.S. would not join Israel's retaliation against Iran, helped ease regional tensions. But his overall approach towards the crisis is flawed. The way Israel is carrying out its war on Gaza is against all the values America preaches about wars and human rights. The U.S. kept supplying weapons to the Jewish nation even amid mounting allegations and evidence that Israel was indiscriminately bombing and destroying Gaza. Even when Mr. Biden seemed frustrated with Mr. Netanyahu's intransigence, he signed a Bill offering $17 billion in defence aid to Israel. Mr. Biden's words and diplomatic efforts for truce are actually not matched by strong actions to pressure Israel. And, by continuing to arm and bankroll Israel's genocidal war on Palestinians, Mr. Biden is debilitating his own moral arguments about foreign policy. Not just morality, Mr. Biden's inability to rein in Israel is weakening America's standing in West Asia and sullying his already fragile candidacy in the U.S. presidential elections in November. If the 81-year-old President is serious about peace in West Asia, he should first address the flaws in his policy towards Israel and Palestine. There were several examples of American Presidents using hard pressure on Israel for peace. Mr. Biden should at least show the courage to call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and adopt policies, including suspending arms sales to Israel, to meet that goal.

The paradox of India's global rise, its regional decline

Happymon Jacob

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One of the deeply perplexing paradoxes of contemporary Indian foreign policy is that a globally rising India is also a regionally declining power. While India's global rise is a function of growth in absolute power, peer accommodation and a conducive 'chaotic' international situation, its waning regional influence is caused by diminishing relative power (*vis-à-vis* China), loss of primacy in South Asia, and fundamental changes in South Asian geopolitics.

India's aggregate power has grown over the past two decades – evident in robust economic growth, military capabilities, and a largely young demography. Its inclusion in key global institutions such as the G-20, as an invitee at G-7 meetings, and active participation in multilateral groups such as the Quad, BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation further highlight its geopolitical significance and its powerful presence globally, even if it is not a member of the United Nations Security Council. There is a lot more peer accommodation of (except from China of course) of India's claims to be a globally significant power. India's global rise is also aided by growing international attention on the Indo-Pacific, a theatre that is pivotal to global strategic stability, where India has a central position, geographically and otherwise.

Extraneous factors

Despite this global rise, paradoxically and worryingly, India's influence is declining in South Asia. When compared to India's influence in the region during the Cold War or in comparison to China's influence in the region today, India's power and influence in the region has sharply declined. This comparative decline, not an absolute one, caused by several extraneous factors, will have an impact on India's global position over time.

Paradoxically, again, some of the factors that have led to the decline of Indian influence in the region are also the reasons behind India's global prominence. Consider the following. The American withdrawal from the region and China filling that power vacuum have been disadvantageous to India. But that is, at the same time, a major reason why the United States and its allies are keen to accommodate India's global interests including in order to push back China in the region. In the case of the Indo-Pacific, while interest in the Indo-Pacific has increased, India's global prominence as an indispensable Indo-Pacific power, New Delhi's focus on the great power balance in the Indo-Pacific may have stretched New Delhi a bit too thin in the continental neighbourhood.

If India's global rise stems from the growth in absolute power and the geopolitical choices made by the leading powers of the contemporary international system, India's regional decline is a product of the dynamics of comparative power, and geopolitical choices made by the region's smaller powers. To that extent, overlooking the balancing acts by the region's smaller powers to focus on the great power balancing might become counterproductive.

This dichotomy has profound implications for New Delhi's global aspirations

The rise of China and what India must do

But the rise of China explains India's regional decline more than anything else. Today, India is more powerful than it has ever been in nearly two centuries. And, yet, it is, comparatively speaking, the weakest it has ever been in history *vis-à-vis* China. Faced with a rising superpower next door for the first time, India is facing stiff geopolitical competition for influence in South Asia. China's rise will, therefore, mean that India may no longer be the most consequential power in the region.

The arrival of China in South Asia, the withdrawal of the U.S. from the region, and India's tilt to the Indo-Pacific have shifted the regional balance of power in Beijing's favour. Sensing this new power equation, South Asia's smaller powers, India's neighbours, are engaged in a range of strategies: balancing, bargaining, hedging and bandwagoning. India's smaller neighbours seem to find China as a useful hedge against India, for the moment at least. It is also important to keep in mind that a great deal of this regional balancing results from shifts in the regional balance of power, not merely from insufficient Indian outreach to the neighbourhood.

While the presence of a rising superpower at its doorstep for the first time is at the heart of this paradox, the growing obsolescence of South Asia as a geopolitical construct adds to India's diminishing hold on the region. For India, meeting the challenge posed by this paradox is essential as China's rise in South Asia will mean that India may no longer be the most consequential power in the region.

To begin with, New Delhi must revisit some of its traditional conceptions of the region, 'modernise' its primacy in South Asia, and take proactive and imaginative policy steps to meet the China challenge in the region.

First of all, we must accept the reality that the region, the neighbours and the region's geopolitics have fundamentally changed over the decade-and-a-half at the least. Not willing to acknowledge there is a problem will only make matters worse.

Second, New Delhi must focus on its strengths rather than trying to match the might of the People's Republic of China in every respect – the latter is a fool's errand. Fashioning a new engagement with the region that reflects India's traditional strengths and the region's changed realities is essential. Reclaiming the Buddhist heritage is one such example.

Third, India's continental strategy is replete with challenges whereas its maritime space has an abundance of opportunities for enhancing trade, joining minilaterals, and creating new issue-based coalitions, among others. New Delhi must, therefore, use its maritime (Indo-Pacific) advantages to cater to its many continental handicaps. Doing so could involve including India's smaller South Asian neighbours to the Indo-Pacific strategic conversations. Many of them are maritime states but not serious players within the Indo-Pacific project. India and its partners (the U.S., Japan, Australia, the European Union, and others) must find ways of engaging and partnering with Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Bangladesh as part of their larger Indo-Pacific strategy. In other words, New Delhi should try to wean them away from the China-led regional grand strategy by making them a key part of the Indo-Pacific grand strategy where India and its partners hold significant advantage over China.

Fourth, there is today an openness in New Delhi to view the region through a non-India centric lens. This also means that New Delhi is no longer uneasy about external powers in its neighbourhood as it used to be during the Cold War. As a consequence, there is a desire to join hands with external friendly partners both in the Indian Ocean and South Asia so as to deal with the region's common challenges. This openness in New Delhi, and the desire of the external actors to engage the region, must be utilised to address the difficulties arising out of New Delhi's regional decline.

Tap soft power

Finally, New Delhi should make creative uses of its soft power to retain its influence in the region. One way to do that is to actively encourage informal contacts between political and civil society actors in India and those in other South Asian countries. For instance, there is a need to encourage informal and unofficial conflict management processes in the region especially when and where the Indian state is hesitant about being involved directly in a conflict – Myanmar is a case in point.

The dichotomy between India's global rise and regional decline has profound implications for India's global aspirations. It is a legitimate question to ask whether a country that is unable to maintain primacy in its periphery will be able to be a pivotal power in international politics.

This is the year to get the SDG goals back on track

Srikumar Chattopadhyay

is a retired scientist and was Head, Resources Analysis Division, Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. He is a former National Fellow of the Gulati Institute for Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram

The United Nations summit on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), that was held in New York (September 18-19), assessed progress towards achieving the SDGs. The Agenda-2030, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, identified 17 SDGs with 169 specific targets to be achieved by 2030. The programme is internationally non-binding, but all countries have committed to work towards these goals as transiting to sustainable development is a common global endeavour.

Slow progress

Progress, according to available reports, is off track. From 2015 to 2019, there were some improvements, although grossly insufficient to achieve the goals. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global crises have virtually halted progress. Apart from slow progress, and little or no attention towards the goals related to the environment and biodiversity (including responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, and life on land), it is a matter of great concern that the current practice of pursuing SDGs defies the integrated and indivisible nature of SDGs. We are far from the overarching target of balancing human well-being and a healthy environment. The present trend, if it continues, will lead to accelerated environmental degradation and the purpose of transiting towards sustainability defeated.

Given this emerging scenario, the UN SDG Report, 2023 identified five key areas for urgent action: Commitment of governments to seven years of accelerated, sustained and transformative actions to deliver on the promises of SDGs; concrete, integrated and targeted government policies and actions to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and to end the war on nature with a focus on advancing the rights of women and girls and empowering the most vulnerable; strengthening of national and subnational capacity, accountability, and public institutions to deliver accelerated progress; recommitment of the international community to deliver and mobilise resources to assist developing nations, and continued strengthening of the UN development system.

2024 is an election year across the world and newly elected governments need to focus on the all-important sustainability issue

World leaders took cognisance of the situation, reaffirmed their commitments and agreed to step-up efforts to deliver SDGs, our global road map out of the crisis, by 2030. But how far these global pronouncements are operative at the ground level remains a big question.

Results that deserve deliberation

A team of 64 scholars analysed 3,000 studies, mostly peer-reviewed published articles across the world to examine 'Scientific evidence on the political impact of the sustainable development goals' within national and global governance to address pressing challenges of poverty eradication, social justice and environmental protection. The results, which were published in the journal, *Nature Sustainability*, September 2022 issue (under the leadership of Professor Frank Biermann of the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands), deserve wide deliberations, especially in the context of Agenda 2030 implementation.

The authors look at five dimensions: global governance, domestic political systems, the integration and coherence of institutions and policies, the inclusiveness of governance from local to global level, and the protection of ecological integrity. They concluded that 'the SDGs thus far have had mainly discursive effects but also have led to some isolated normative and institutional reforms.

However, effects are often diffuse, and there is little evidence that goal setting at the global level leads directly to political impacts in national and local politics. Overall, our assessment indicates that although there are some limited effects of the SDGs, they are not a transformative force in and of themselves'.

In this context, another UN report, 'Future is Now' (2019), perhaps provides some guidelines for action. It emphasised that 'The true transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda can be realised through a systemic approach that helps identify, manage trade-offs while maximising co-benefits.' By co-benefit the stress is on the activities that, while addressing one SDG, will help address others at the same time. The report suggests adopting locally best suited entry points following regional and national priorities and applying four levers – governance, economy and finance, individual and collective action, and science and technology to propel our actions along the entry points.

Actors from these levers must develop partnership and establish novel collaboration to design and rapidly implement integrated pathways to sustainable development corresponding to the specific needs and priorities of the country. This will ultimately contribute to global transformation. In the prologue to this report, Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway and renowned for the famous Brundtland report, 'Our Common Future", expressed the hope that politicians and policymakers will take note of the suggestions advanced in this report and steer the world towards sustainable development.

An important year

The year 2024 is an election year across the world. At least 64 countries, both developed and developing, accounting for 49% of world population, will go to the polls. Perhaps, it is important for all the newly elected governments to ponder over the sustainability issue and align their national policies accordingly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cleansing the system

Moral and ethical values in public life, especially where it concerns our legislators, have been plummeting to irretrievable depths. We the people are left with no choice but to elect "criminals". When we have such persons getting elected to Parliament to make laws that govern the nation, can their minions be far behind in emulating their leader? We cannot expect Parliament to enact laws to bar criminal elements from entering the portals of Parliament. The Supreme Court of India is our last hope. The top court should take the initiative to cleanse the system for the sake of the survival of democracy and to uphold constitutional values.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Venky's Chicken Products

I write this letter as the Company Secretary for Venky's (India) Limited. *The Hindu* (and another media house) has published a report, "Venky's pushing antibiotics as poultry growth promoter" (Inside pages, April 6, 2024 and online, with a link at *thlink.in/Venkys*), which alleges that Venky's chicken has a heavy dosing of antibiotics. The story was aired on Live TV and circulated on social media platforms. The statement made by the media houses is unfounded, inaccurate and in contrast with the facts. Venky's, a pioneer in the Indian poultry industry, has been supplying high quality chicken to its consumers for over four decades. One of the products sold by Venky's is 'processed and ready to eat chicken' (Venky's Chicken Products) which is made in state-of-the art processing units that have the highest standard of production practices and which are in strict compliance with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) norms. Our chicken processing units have internationally recognised certification such as HACCP and FSSC 22000.

Venky's chicken products are made from internally sourced chicken meat — from birds raised in-house or grown under contract farming supervised by Venky's. We can proudly state that the birds used in Venky's Chicken Products are not fed with antibiotics on a preventive basis or as a growth promoter. The meat used to make Venky's Chicken Products is periodically tested at FSSAI-approved NABL-accredited laboratories for antibiotics residue, as per FSSAI norms. Venky's Chicken Products are in compliance with FSSAI antibiotics residue norms.

Rohan Bhagwat,
Pune

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

The ABVP protests in Hubballi seeking the death penalty for the accused in the Neha Hiremath murder case. Neha, a first-year MCA student, was stabbed to death in Hubballi. PTI

Murder and mischief in Hubballi

Neha Hiremath, a 23-year-old student, was stabbed to death on a university campus by her former classmate, Fayaz Khandunayak. The BJP leadership has been alleging that this is a case of 'love jihad', while the Congress has argued that the incident was the unfortunate result of a personal tiff. **Girish Pattanashetti** reports on the State-wide protests and the different accounts of Neha and Fayaz's relationship

It is the 13th day since Neha Hiremath, 23, was killed in Karnataka's Hubballi. People trickle in and out of the Hiremaths' compact two-storey house in Bidnal, a middle-class locality populated with people of various faiths. Some carry food in steel boxes: it is a tradition in north Karnataka to visit bereaved families with food and eat meals with them after offering condolences.

The visitors – friends, relatives, and acquaintances – all express horror that a young woman, the daughter of Congress municipal councillor Niranjan Hiremath, 50, suffered such a gruesome end. Neha was stabbed to death on a college campus by her former classmate, 23-year-old Fayaz Khandunayak, on April 18.

It has been an exhausting day for the Hiremaths. The death of their daughter has occurred in the midst of the Lok Sabha elections and has turned into an important election narrative. Earlier, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, R. Ashoka, who belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accompanied by former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and MLA Mahesh Tenginakai, visited their home to offer condolences. As they streamed out, journalists gathered around them, close to two air coolers, under a shamiana, with a huge banner paying tribute to Neha in the backdrop.

Addressing the media, the BJP leaders spoke of lapses in police action. They promised to pressure the State government to act without delay and ensure stringent punishment to the accused. They emphasised the need for an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to "bring out the truth about this case of 'love jihad'" – a conspiracy theory propounded by Hindutva groups which claim that Muslim men are luring Hindu women into marriage on false pretences, in order to convert them to Islam. Niranjan, 50, who had already said he was satisfied with the progress of the investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), listened in silence.

After they left, Niranjan's staff informed him that a minister would be visiting soon. An aide consulted him about the drafting of a letter seeking permission for a gun licence. The distraught father did not have a moment to grieve.

As Niranjan goes downstairs in the evening to see more visitors off, a gunman, provided by the Hubballi-Dharwad police, stands guard at the front door. Inside the hall, Niranjan's wife Geeta, 43, sits on the sofa staring at her daughter's garlanded portrait. Neha's younger brother, Nihal, stays back to take care of his mother. "Although she was older, she was my friend," says Nihal.

Murder in broad daylight

On the blistering afternoon of April 18, Neha, a first-year Masters-degree student of Computer Applications at KLE Technological University, was getting ready to leave the college campus. Her mother was sitting in a car outside, waiting to pick her up. "Her class was to end at 4.30 p.m. I had gone five minutes earlier. After coming out of the classroom, she called me to say she was coming out," recalls Geeta.

> She first met him during some project work, and treated him like a friend. But she distanced herself from him after coming to know of his intentions.
>
> **NIRANJAN HIREMATH**
> Neha's father

CCTV cameras show what happened next. A masked man intercepted Neha and repeatedly stabbed her. Students stood frozen in horror as he fled the scene, leaving her bleeding profusely. A security officer on campus was the first to lift her up with the help of a few students. "We immediately rushed her to a hospital nearby in a university car. But the doctors declared her dead on arrival," the security officer says.

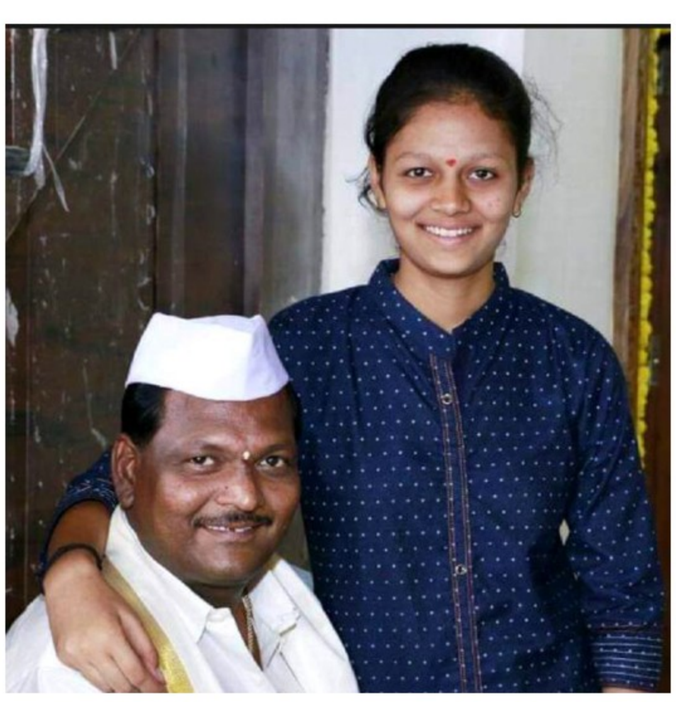
The man was later identified as Fayaz, her classmate from an undergraduate course. A resident of Munavalli in Saundatti taluk of Belagavi district, Fayaz was nabbed the same evening by the Karnataka Police, reportedly with the help of people who chased him after seeing him running away from campus.

The Police Commissioner, Renuka Sukumar, says Fayaz, in his initial statement, claimed that he and Neha were friends from pre-university and were in love, but that she started avoiding him later. "He said he was unable to bear this 'insult' and killed her," Sukumar says, adding that his statement needed corroboration.

Initially, Neha's parents categorically denied Fayaz's statement that the two of them were in love. Later, they said that the two were friends. "She first met him during some project work, and treated him like a friend. But she distanced herself from him after coming to know of his intentions," says Niranjan.

Neha, from several accounts, was reserved and preferred to be with family. "Unlike other girls her age, Neha never invited her friends home. She didn't go out with them either. In fact, she had very few friends. I was like her older sister and constant companion," says Geeta, her face wet with tears. "Even if she wanted to go out to eat a snack, she would force me to accompany her. She would never go alone."

Niranjan says Neha was deeply religious. He calls his daughter their "lucky charm". He says, "She would not drink a drop of water without doing puja. We prospered after her birth."



Neha Hiremath with her father and municipal council member Niranjan Hiremath. Photo: Special Arrangement THE HINDU

Widespread protests

News that a Hindu woman was killed by a Muslim man spread like wildfire in the district. As leaders and religious heads rushed to console the victim's family, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) began protesting the same night. The protests quickly spread across Karnataka. Home Minister G. Parameshwar termed the brutal murder "*aakasmika*", which roughly translates into accidental and unexpected.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the murder was committed for personal reasons. The BJP immediately called these statements attempts to hush up a case of 'love jihad'. Niranjan also condemned the remarks of the Home Minister and Chief Minister, providing further ammunition to the BJP's attack. The Home Minister then apologised for his remarks, saying he regretted issuing his statement if it had hurt the parents.

While protests by right-wing organisations continued, the powerful Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, of which the Hiremaths are a part, also began protests seeking the death penalty for the accused. This was followed by a call for a State-wide college bandh by the ABVP.

The next day, Muslim organisations including the Anjuman-e-Islam also began protests against the accused. In Hubballi-Dharwad and Munavalli, Muslims came out in large numbers to condemn the act. "We stand with Neha's family and we as a community strongly condemn this brutal murder. We want the government to ensure that he gets the death penalty. As a tribute to Neha, we will name one of the blocks of the Anjuman-E-Islam complex in Dharwad after her," said the president of the Anjuman-E-Islam, Dharwad Ismail Tamatgar. These protests forced Siddaramaiah to hand over the case to the CID. Subsequently, the government also issued an order to set up a special court.

The BJP sent a host of leaders to visit Neha's family at regular intervals, organised candlelight vigils, and a public meeting. During his visit to the region, BJP national president J.P. Nadda visited Neha's family. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was in Hubballi to attend an election rally, also met the family backstage after his campaign. Both Nadda and Shah alleged that the Siddaramaiah-led government was trying to dilute the case. "On April 18, Neha Hiremath was murdered. Whose responsibility is it to provide security? But they (Congress) say it is a personal matter. If you can't protect women, leave it to us. We will make Karnataka safe for women," Shah said, while addressing a rally in Hubballi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too has been mentioning the murder in his speeches across Karnataka. He brought up Neha during election rallies in Belagavi, Sirsi, Davanagere, and Hosapete and appealed to the people to reject the Congress for its "vote bank politics".

The State government has been trying hard to prevent the BJP from building a Hindu-Muslim narrative and has blamed the saffron party of politicising the issue for electoral gains. Congress leader Santosh Lad countered the BJP saying the party was playing "politics over death" and said the BJP would not have bothered if the killer was a Hindu man.

> He had told me that Neha was in love with him, and they were ready to get married, but I had told him to first focus on building a career. My son was intelligent and so was Neha. I wanted him to study for the IAS. But he has made us hang our heads in shame.
>
> **MAMTAZ**
> Fayaz's mother

Allegations and counter allegations

The incident once again led to discussions and debates on 'interfaith love' with social media flooded with hate speeches. As Karnataka became a tinderbox, the police provided protection to Fayaz's parents in Munavalli in the neighbouring district of Belagavi. They strongly condemned the incident and apologised for their son's act before going incommunicado.

In her lone interaction with the media, Fayaz's mother, Mamtaz, a teacher, empathised with Neha's family. But she categorically denied that this was one-sided love. "This was great injustice to Neha and her family. What he has done is completely wrong. He left home five days ago (April 13) saying he was fed up of sitting at home and was going to find a job. I came to know about the ghastly incident after an acquaintance called me asking me to switch on the television," she said.

According to Mamtaz, Fayaz and Neha were in love. "He had told me that Neha was in love with him, and they were ready to get married, but I had told him to first focus on building a career. My son was intelligent and so was Neha. I wanted him to study for the Indian Administrative Service. But he has made us hang our heads in shame," said Mamtaz, who remembers speaking to Neha once over the phone.

Fayaz's father, Babasaheb, who is also a teacher, apologised too. He believes that Munavalli, his hometown, has got a bad name because of his son. "Strict punishment should be given to my son for what he has done so that it will be a lesson even for those who think of committing such acts," he said. Babasaheb and Mamtaz live separately; Fayaz lived with his mother.

Babasaheb recalls Neha's father calling him once. "He asked me to keep Fayaz away from his daughter," he said. "But Fayaz fought with him saying they were in love and wanted to get married." Neha's parents refute this story. They claim that Fayaz kept pursuing their daughter. What happened on April 18 was a planned act, they say. They also believe that it involved a few others.

A change in routine

The incident has left the university administration in shock. The institution has imposed restrictions on the entry of outsiders. At KLE Technological University, people say they didn't know Neha well as classes began only three months ago and she rarely attended class.

During the investigation, the university authorities informed the CID that they had called Neha's parents to inform them about her poor attendance. The parents, they said, told them that a health issue had prevented her from attending class. She later appeared for tests in college.

On April 18, Neha had to gone to university to write an internal assessment test. After the CID began its investigation and took him to the university campus for 'mahazar' (inspection of the crime spot), Fayaz told them that he had spent a few hours on campus waiting for Neha to come to college, sources say.

In BCA college, adjacent to KLE Technological University, where Fayaz and Neha studied together, neither their classmates nor the teachers witnessed anything unusual. Fayaz was well known on campus during his second year as he was chosen to represent the university in bodybuilding and earned the title 'University Blue'.

"In his final year, however, he lost interest in sport and also academics. He failed in one of the subjects during the fifth semester," recalls a lecturer who did not want to be named. Another lecturer says, "Fayaz nearly vanished from college after the fifth semester and did not write his final semester examination." He also stopped bodybuilding, the lecturer adds.

Meanwhile, the CID's six-day custody of the accused has ended and Fayaz is back in judicial custody.

Neha's parents are demanding a new law to ensure speedy delivery of justice and stringent punishment in such cases. "We want a special law to be enacted just like in the case of Nirbhaya. We don't want the accused to get away with some minor punishment because of inordinate delays in the courts. While we welcome the setting up of a special court, we want the government to take steps to formulating a separate law which will ensure the most stringent punishment that will act as deterrent," says Niranjan.

Although the family is disturbed by the fact that they are suddenly in the limelight and at the centre of a political slugfest, they see a message in their daughter's departure. "She has left us in grief, but she has made us stronger. We don't want other parents to suffer like this. We will pursue the matter as far as we can. We hope the government will listen to us," Niranjan says.

From Page One

Rahul returns to fight in U.P., chooses Rae Bareli

Rae Bareli was the only seat that the Congress had won in Uttar Pradesh in the 2019 election, with Sonia Gandhi decimating the BJP's Dinesh Pratap Singh by roughly 1,67,000 votes. Ms. Gandhi polled 5,34,918 votes (55.80%) against the BJP nominee who polled 3,67,740 (38.36%) votes. Mr. Singh, who had been with the Congress for more than seven years before switching to the BJP, is once again in the fray and will face Mr. Gandhi.

In Amethi, meanwhile, the contest is now between Ms. Irani and Mr. Sharma. Ms. Irani said that the Gandhi family had accepted its defeat in Amethi even before the first vote had been cast. "Had they felt there was any chance of victory on the seat, they would have contested from here and not fielded their proxy," the BJP leader said.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh, however, described the decision as part of a "larger strategy." "This single decision has befuddled the BJP, its supporters, and its sycophants," he said in a post on X. A common Congress worker, he said, will break the arrogance of the BJP in Amethi. The entire country is a "stronghold" of the Gandhi family, not just the two seats in Uttar Pradesh, he said, also asking the Prime Minister why he could not even "muster the courage to contest an election from a single seat below the Vindhyas?"

'Unfair to Wayanad voters'

The Left parties also joined in to criticise Mr. Gandhi for fighting from Rae Bareli, given that he is already in the fray from Wayanad in Kerala. Communist Party of India leader Anne Raja, who stood against Mr. Gandhi in Wayanad, called the move a moral failure. She argued that while the rules allow candidates to fight two seats, Mr. Gandhi should have been honest with Wayanad voters. "Clearly the Congress had been mulling over it for some time. By hiding that decision till the polling ended in Wayanad, Mr. Gandhi has done injustice to Wayanad voters," she said.

Congress seat tally will hit all-time low, says Modi

The Opposition party will struggle to reach 'half-century' mark, says PM; he mocks Rahul's move to fight from Rae Bareli; says 'these people' are contesting polls not to win but to divide the country

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday mocked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest the election from Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareli and said the party's tally in the Lok Sabha election would be at an "all-time low".

Mr. Modi said the Congress would struggle to reach the "half-century" mark. "They are contesting on less seats this election, so the number is going to reduce. Now the people have realised that these people are not contesting to win elections but using elections to divide the country," Mr. Modi said at a rally in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district.

The Prime Minister said he had predicted two months ago in Parliament that the "biggest" Congress leader (Sonia Gandhi) would not contest the Lok Sabha election and get nominated to the Rajya Sabha. Targeting Mr. Gandhi, he said, "Now, the *shehzada* of the Congress, who went to Wayanad after losing Amethi, is also contesting from Rae Bareli. He knows he will lose Wayanad this time."

Battle-ready: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an election rally at Ahmedpur in Birbhum district, West Bengal, on Friday. PTI

The Prime Minister, who addressed three election rallies in Bardhaman, Tehatta (Nadia district) and Ahmedpur (Birbhum district), said there was no need for opinion polls or exit polls as he had predicted the defeat of the Congress long ago. "These people go around and say that 'do not fear'. I am telling them, do not fear, do not run away," he said.

Mr. Modi said if voted to power, the Congress would "snatch" quotas meant for the Scheduled Castes, Dalits, and OBCs and give those to its "jihadi vote bank" as part of the party's "appeasement politics". He touched upon the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and said the Act would provide citizenship even though many political parties were opposing the law.

The Prime Minister targeted the Trinamool Congress and said under its government, Hindus had become "second-category citizens" in the State. "Trinamool has objection to Ram Temple, processions of Ram Navami and to slogans of Jai Shri Ram," he said.

Mr. Modi referred to remarks by a Trinamool leader directed at Hindus and asked whether vote bank politics was more important than humanity.

The Prime Minister spoke on the Sandeshkhali violence and the teacher recruitment scam in Bengal. "Those who played with the future of your children should not be spared. West Bengal teacher recruitment scam reveals the true character of Trinamool leaders. I will not spare those who looted the people of Bengal," he said.

The Calcutta High Court, on April 22, terminated jobs of 25,000-plus teachers and non-teaching staff on allegations that there was irregularity in the recruitment process.

The Prime Minister said he had requested the BJP in Bengal to establish a legal cell and a social media platform to assist the youth who fell victims to this scam. "I assure the youth of Bengal that those who have caused you distress will be punished," he said.

Iran releases all crew members of seized container vessel

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

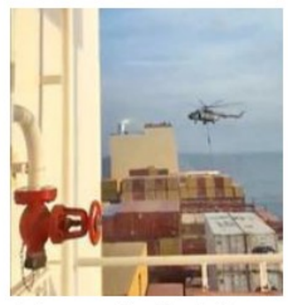
All Indian sailors on board the Portuguese-flagged vessel *MSC Aries* have been released, Iranian Foreign Ministry announced on Friday.

This information was shared by Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian in a telephone conversation with his Estonian counterpart Margus Tsahkna.

The ship also had several Estonian crew members and the Iranian side said the crew belonging to multiple nationalities have been released on humanitarian grounds.

"Amirabdollahian said the ship, which turned off its radar in the territorial waters of Iran and endangered the security of navigation, is detained under judicial rules. He however noted that Iran has already released all the ship's crew members on humanitarian grounds, and if the ship's captain accompanies them, the crew including the Estonians can return to their country," said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran in a press release.

Seventeen of the 25 crew members of the ship are Indian nationals.



A chopper of the Revolutionary Guards of Iran hovers over *MSC Aries*. FILE PHOTO

The Portuguese-flagged container ship was captured by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on April 13 against the backdrop of tension with the West over Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip. A day later, Iran launched a missile and drone attack against Israel in response to the April 1 attack on the Iranian mission in Syrian capital Damascus.

"Amirabdollahian underlined that compliance with maritime rules and regulations by all ships is necessary and unavoidable in order to maintain maritime safety," said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran.

MSC Aries is owned by Gortal Shipping Inc., which is affiliated with Zodiac Maritime Shipping Company.

SC may consider giving interim bail to Kejriwal

"We may or may not grant interim bail because of the elections. Do not assume anything. Do not read anything into it. We are not saying anything either way," Justice Khanna said.

The hearing saw Mr. Singhvi wind up his submissions with "we are at a time when liberty particularly matters, though it matters all the time".

In the previous hearing, the court had questioned the timing of Mr. Kejriwal's arrest – almost two years after an FIR was registered in the case.

The court had made it clear that "life and liberty were important".

Mr. Kejriwal had submitted that his arrest was an attempt by the BJP, using the ED as its "tool", to prevent him from campaigning for the Aam Aadmi Party during the election.

The ED had countered that "criminal" politicians cannot get immunity from arrest.

During the hearing, Justice Khanna observed there was no CBI prosecution yet against Mr. Kejriwal. Mr. Raju replied the investigation was on. Mr. Kejriwal had contended that his name did not figure in the First Information Report, the Enforcement Case Information Report, the prosecution complaints, the statements of the star witnesses, or in the CBI chargesheets in the case. There was no new material collected against him over the span of two years since August 2022, when the FIR was filed. The court questioned whether the ED had objectively weighed the "entire material-"before coming to the conclusion that there were reasons to believe him guilty of the offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act . Mr. Raju told SC that the ED had material against him.

Issue 'no due certificates' within 2 days of request: EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has directed all States and Union Territories to ensure time-bound issuance of "no dues certificate" to candidates which are to be included in their affidavits.

In an advisory, the EC asked States and U.T.'s to ensure that "no dues certificates" are provided within 48 hours of the request by candidates. If the candidate is not able to provide "no dues certificate" even after he has cleared all such dues it goes against his candidature at the time of scrutiny of nominations, the commission said.

There is no respite to the candidate even if they submit the certificate after expiry of the statutory period of filing of nominations in the constituency concerned, an official said.

Modi remained silent on allegations against Governor, says Mamata

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The tears of the woman who levelled allegations of sexual assault against West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose were heartbreaking, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Friday.

"Yesterday, a young woman who worked at Raj Bhavan came out and spoke against the Governor's harassment... Yesterday, the tears of the woman broke my heart," the Chief Minister said at an election rally, adding that she has seen the woman's video testimony.

"Before talking about Sandeshkhali, the BJP must answer why the Governor did this to a woman working at Raj Bhavan," she said.

The Trinamool Congress wondered why Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who came to the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata on Thursday night, did not speak a word on the issue. "The woman cried and walked out saying she was too scared to work at Raj Bhavan anymore. She said that she was called at odd hours and was subjected to harassment," the Chief Minister said.

A woman contractual employee at the Raj Bhavan on Thursday had filed a complaint with the Kolkata Police, alleging harassment by the Governor.

Article 361 of the Constitution grants immunity to the Governor against any criminal proceedings.

On Friday, the Governor dubbed the charges as "absurd drama" which he said would not deter his "determined efforts to expose corruption and curb violence".

Nijjar killing: Canadian Police arrest members of 'hit squad'

Press Trust of India
OTTAWA

The Canadian Police on Friday arrested three members of an alleged hit squad investigators here believe was tasked by the government of India with the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey last year, according to a Canadian media report.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar. India has dismissed Mr. Trudeau's charges as "absurd" and "motivated."

Three people have been arrested and charged in the killing of Nijjar, CTV News quoted a senior government source as saying.

Court documents show

Hardeep Singh Nijjar

Karanpreet Singh, Kamalpreet Singh, and Karan Brar are each facing one count of first-degree murder and one count of conspiracy to commit murder in Nijjar's death.

Nijjar, 45, was gunned down outside his gurdwara in Surrey, B.C., on June 18, 2023. He was a Canadian citizen.

The indictments on Friday allege the conspiracy unfolded in both Surrey and Edmonton between May 1, 2023 and the date of Nijjar's killing.

Quoting sources close to the investigation, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported that the police are actively investigating possible links to three more murders in Canada.

Members of the hit squad are alleged to have played different roles as shooters, drivers, and spotters on the day Nijjar was killed at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey in British Columbia, according to the sources.

The men were arrested Friday during police operations in at least two provinces, the report said.

Sources said investigators identified the alleged hit squad members in Canada some months ago and have been keeping them under surveillance. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are expected to announce the arrests and share details of their investigation later on Friday, CTV News reported.

Amid simmering Christian-Muslim rivalry, BJP tries to get a toehold in Kerala

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George
PATHANAMTHITTA

Public broadcaster Doordarshan telecast *The Kerala Story*, a film that seeks to tarnish the State and particularly its Muslims, in the midst of the election campaign. The telecast of the controversial film was questioned by the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) and the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF), but some Christian groups organised their own screenings of the movie. This was not the first sign of a dissonance between the Christian and Muslim communities of the State.

Pathanamthitta is a hotspot of these tensions. The BJP fielded Anil K. Antony, the son of Congress leader A.K. Antony, as its candidate from the constituency. The district has the lowest total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.3, the highest literacy rate (96.9%) and proportion of elderly population (18%) for the entire country. It records a large outflow of its own young population and a constant inflow of people. Between 2001 and 2011, its population fell from 12.34 lakh to 11.95 lakh.

Demographic trends

Population growth is declining for all communities across the country and in Kerala, but this decline is uneven across regions and communities. Kerala as a whole has TFR well below the national average but varies across communities. Social indices and income levels, not religion, are the key determinants of demographic trends for India as a whole. The total TFR of Kerala is 1.79; for Christians, it is 1.77; for Hindus, 1.53; and for Muslims, it is 2.25.

Uneven demographic trends across regions and communities are going to be a challenge for Indian federalism going forward, but Pathanamthitta is instructive. The 2008 delimitation reduced the district's representation in the Kerala Assembly from seven to five seats. The district's religious composition is 56.93% Hindus, 38.12% Christians, and 4.60% Muslims. Kozhikode (56.2% Hindus, 39.24% Muslims, 4.26% Christians) gained an additional seat (now 13) and Malappuram (27.6% Hindus, 70.24% Muslims, 1.98% Christians) gained four seats to reach 16. These demographic shifts form the backdrop of the call of church leaders for Christians to have more children, and charges of 'love jihad', in response to inter-religious marriages.

Alongside outmigration, Pathanamthitta also receives in-migrants, 1.6 lakh of them, according to a 2021 estimate. This will gradually change the population mix of the district but at the moment, it is a triangular balancing of interests and prejudices of the three communities, and the dynamics of sects and castes within each of them.

Making space: Pathanamthitta BJP candidate Anil K. Antony at the Believers Eastern Church in Thiruvalla. FILE PHOTO

A large segment of Kerala population is keenly engaged with global conflicts, which is partly the social remittance from diaspora populations in West Asia and the West. Christians are increasingly moving for permanent settlement in the West, but the Muslims mostly return from West Asia to Kerala, creating an economic dimension also to the demographic shifts. The conversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque by Turkiye in 2020, and the ongoing Gaza crisis appear to have widened the gap between the communities. The LDF, UDF, and the BJP are jostling for advantage in this social quicksand.

The shift of Pathanamthitta district from the UDF to the LDF – which won all five Assembly seats in 2021 – can be partly explained by the latter's new inroads among the Christian and Muslim communities. Christians who see the UDF as being dominated by the Indian Union Muslim League find the CPI(M) attractive; and so do segments of the Muslims and Christians that find the UDF inadequate in its response to the BJP. The unusual second term won by the LDF in 2021 was built on this new social coalition.

The BJP is trying to test its endurance. "The trust of the Christian community in us has grown stronger and we will continue to do everything possible for their welfare," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during the campaign. The BJP hopes to build a coalition of Christians and Hindus, premised on their shared insecurities with regard to Muslims. The response is uneven.

The Believers Eastern Church declared its support for Mr. Anil Antony, in a first for a church, but Theodosius Mar Thoma XXII Metropolitan, the head of the Mar Thoma Church, called for voting to uphold India's pluralism and secularism. At the annual convention of the revivalist Indian Pentecostal Church last year, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Congress leader V.D. Satheesan and Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai were speakers, each making their political pitch.

Mr. Pillai, a BJP veteran, explained the ethnic roots of the violence in Manipur, which is seen as anti-Christian by the community. Among other factors that continue to make the community suspicious of the BJP is the regulation of foreign contributions that restricts churches from receiving funds even from members abroad. Moreover, the three communities live extremely interconnected lives in Kerala. Two recent reports alone are instructive. In Malappuram, the 400-year-old Muthuvallur Sree Durga Bhagavathy Temple is being renovated with the support of Muslims. The Nicholas Memorial CSI Church in Manjeri in Malappuram opened its premises for Id prayers this year after a ground that Muslims generally used was not available.

The LDF projects itself as the most authentic anti-BJP front for the Muslims and an escape platform for Christians unhappy with the Congress and unsure of the BJP.

The BJP's calculations are based on suggesting a shared demographic threat perception among the Hindus and Christians. As for the Congress, a return to power in Kerala will depend largely on its ability to bring back the Christians and Muslims together under its umbrella.

ELECTIONS 2024

Muslims have faith in PM, says Jamal Siddiqui

The Muslims of India have faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to Jamal Siddiqui, the president of the BJP's Minority Morcha. He claimed that the PM was only responding to the divisive agenda of the INDIA bloc in some of his recent speeches that have been dubbed anti-Muslim by some commentators.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Siddiqui insisted that the PM in his speeches was only referring to infiltrators. "Muslims are citizens of this country," he emphasised.

On the BJP not giving political representation to Muslims in the ongoing polls, Mr. Siddiqui said that, during a battle, the strongest soldiers must be put on the front line. "The party is giving Muslims opportunity in the local body polls," he said.

BJP Minority Morcha national president Jamal Siddiqui.

Publish detailed turnout figures: Yechury to CEC

Questioning the delay in releasing the final voter turnout figures for the first two phases of the Lok Sabha election, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, in a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Rajeev Kumar, sought explanation on the 6% difference between the initial and final figures. He said this surge was unusual and "raises some suspicion".

Mr. Yechury also pointed out that the Election Commission took 11 days to publish the final figures for the first phase and four days for the second phase.

Mr. Yechury urged the commission to clear the doubts and publish State-wise, constituency-wise and Assembly segment-wise break-up of the initial and final percentage as well as the number of votes cast.

PM bought planes for himself but did not waive the loans of the farmers. Has Modi*ji* wiped the tears of a single farmer?

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA
Congress leader

Sanjay Nirupam joins Shinde-led Shiv Sena

Having been expelled from the Congress last month, former MP Sanjay Nirupam, along with his wife and daughter, joined the Shiv Sena, led by Eknath Shinde, on Friday. "After 20 years, rejoining Shiv Sena feels like a '*ghar wapasi*' (homecoming)," Mr. Nirupam said.

We are trying to change the face of villages. Our govt. has decided that villages should prosper, and the youth should get jobs there itself.

NITIN GADKARI
Union Minister

Battle of choices: Rahul Gandhi addresses a public meeting for the Lok Sabha election in Bastar. ANI

Congress social justice plank faces tough test in Chhattisgarh

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Though social justice has emerged as a key plank in the Congress' Lok Sabha campaign nationwide, the theme is being put to a stern test in Chhattisgarh despite the backward classes forming a decisive majority in the State.

Apart from the many economic promises, the Congress has also promised to conduct a caste survey and increase reservation beyond 50%. While the Congress alleges that the BJP seeks 400-plus seats in the Lok Sabha election because it wants to tamper with the Constitution and end reservation, the BJP has attempted to change the narrative by claiming that it was indeed the Congress that was snatching the rights of Dalits, tribal people, and backward classes to give reservation to Muslims.

But even before this whole debate on the "Muslim" quota began, the Congress had limited impact in taking the social justice message to the intended beneficiaries. With seven of the 11 constituencies still to go to the polls, issues such as Ram Temple; Article 370; religious conversion; the clout of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which towers over the BJP candidates; and the lingering questions emanating from last year's Assembly election are all posing a challenge to the strategy.

Party sources said that apart from relaying the message through speeches and approaching voters to "fill guarantee cards", the Congress has also nudged social organisations in tribal areas to conduct meetings and explain its position on reservation.

Observers such as political commentator Alok Putul, however, say that apart from the ₹1 lakh promise through survey forms, the party has not done enough to deconstruct complicated issues.

"There are many first-time voters who say they want to vote for Hindu Rashtra, notwithstanding the serious implications of such an idea. This shows the effective delivery of the BJP in comparison," he says.

Congress leaders differ on this perception.

"I feel we have been able to take the message that the BJP and the RSS want to change the Constitution and abolish reservation for the grassroots. This is also reflecting in the speeches of the Prime Minister who has been forced to defend his party's position on reservation," Chandan Yadav, national secretary of the Congress in charge of Chhattisgarh, says.

Political commentator Harsh S. Dubey points out how during the 2023 Assembly election too the Congress had promised caste survey but it didn't go well for the party.

In the election, the BJP sprang a surprise by returning to power, largely due to the shift in the tribal belts of Surguja and Bastar where the Congress suffered heavy setbacks at the hands of the BJP.

"We did well in the OBC- and SC-dominated areas of the plains. I feel the backward sections of the State find a common cause in reservation and social justice against Hindutva politics," Mr. Yadav says.

"Also caste census is a part of the social justice narrative. Unless you know the numbers, how would you take affirmative action? I think the BJP has no answer to that," he says.

'No need to worry about reservation; PM strengthened it during decade in power'

It is Congress that has diluted reservation for the Other Backward Classes by giving quota to Muslims, says Assam Chief Minister; BJP will win at least 11 of the 14 seats in the State, he says as he dismisses Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi's remarks on 'mafia raj' by questioning her political credentials

INTERVIEW

Himanta Biswa Sarma

Sandeep Phukan

Before embarking on another day of hectic campaigning, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma spoke on the BJP's electoral prospects in Assam. He also hit out at Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for alleging that Assam is under "mafia raj", noting that she has not even won a municipal election. Edited excerpts:

What is your target for the Lok Sabha election? Of the 14 seats in Assam, how many seats is the BJP hoping to win?

We are working on a range of 11 to 13 seats, with 11 being the minimum and 13 being the maximum. I think Dhubri will be a difficult one. Our partner, Asom Gana Parishad, is contesting there. They always elect Congress or AIUDF [All India United Democratic Front]. I am not calculating this seat.

It seems the contest in the Jorhat Lok Sabha seat, where the Congress's Gaurav Gogoi is a candidate, has become a prestige battle.

It is not that. Jorhat is a stronghold of the BJP and right from 2014, the Jorhat seat is with us. Even at the height of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) agitation, the people re-elected Topon Gogoi. So, it is our stronghold and irrespective of any Congress candidate, I think the BJP will win with a handsome margin.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, while campaigning for Rakibul Hussain in Dhubri, said there is "mafia raj" in Assam and claimed that the BJP's "washing machine" was used to clean the charges against you.

Why discuss Priyanka Gandhi? Who is she?

She is a star campaigner of the Congress party.

But I don't consider her. She has not even contested a municipal election till today. So why should we discuss about her? Because she is the daughter of a great family? We shouldn't discuss too much about her.

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Let her first establish her political credentials and then we can speak. We can discuss Rahul Gandhi as he is an MP at least.

The Congress has just announced Rahul Gandhi as a candidate from Rae Bareli. Will you be campaigning against him?

That depends on my party. If they ask me to go, I will go.

Many say that the BJP, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has raised issues like wealth redistribution and Muslim quota to bring out the party's core voters after low turnout in the initial phases of voting.

I think there was no low turnout. You have to go by the press release of the Election Commission in the first phase and there was a figure of 1% over the previous election. As far as Assam is concerned, there was a higher percentage than [in the] last election.

So, we have a certain philosophy and basic principles. In election time, we argue those principles and we are always against appeasement politics. Whether there was low turnout or high turnout, we are destined to speak certain things and we will go on speaking them.

One of these things is the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The Prime Minister has said that he will implement the UCC in his third term. But our tribal communities are opposed to the UCC?

If you see the model Bill of the UCC in Uttarakhand, then that Bill has exempted the tribal communities from the UCC. So that debate has come to a rest.

How is it uniform then?

Tribal communities have certain historical customs and traditions, and we need to protect them. These are not because of scriptures but a traditional way of living. It cannot be compared with certain religious rituals that are not fundamental to that religion.

The BJP had given a call for "400 *paar*" but the Opposition has made that a campaign against you. The Congress says that such a tally will be used to change the Constitution and end reservation for SCs and STs.

Mr. Modi has been Prime Minister for the past 10 years. He has abolished Article 370 [of the Constitution]. He has done many landmark things but he has never touched reservation, rather, strengthened it. It is the Congress party that weakened the reservation system in the country. In the guise of OBC [Other Backward Classes], they have brought in the Muslims. They are giving 4% Muslim reservation in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. At the cost of the OBC people. They declared Muslims as OBC and created a duplicate OBC. The question is, why have they diluted reservation in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?

You are not only very sharp in your language during campaigning but you literally dance at your public rallies. Do you think you connect with voters better?

I don't dance at every rally. There is a very nice song that the Assam BJP is promoting, *akou ebaar* Modi *sarkar* [Modi government once again]. People want to dance and without it, my rally will not be completed.

So, will there be *akou ebaar* Modi *sarkar*?

I think we are on our way to reaching that target and our numbers will be around 400 seats.
(Full interview on: bit.ly/cmhimanta)

BJP locked in a direct contest with Samajwadi Party in third phase of election in Uttar Pradesh

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

With 10 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh going to the polls in the third phase on May 7, campaigning in India's most populous and electorally crucial State reached a crescendo, with all the political parties hitting top gear.

Sambhal, Hathras, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Firozabad, Mainpuri, Etah, Budaun, Bareilly, and Aonla vote on the back of a raucous campaign in which top leaders across political parties have rooted for their core and long-standing issues.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath led the BJP's charge against, what they called, dynasty and appeasement politics of the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP), and slammed the Opposition for declining the Ram Temple invitation.

The SP, which has much at stake in this phase, pushed its caste census pitch and alleged that the BJP will end reservation and hence is seeking 400-plus seats in the Lok Sabha.

Of the 10 seats that will vote, the BJP won eight – Hathras, Agra, Firozabad, Fatehpur Sikri, Etah, Badaun, Bareilly and Aonla – in 2019. Mainpuri and Sambhal went to the SP.

In many of the seats in the third phase, the BJP is locked in a direct contest with the SP-led INDIA bloc, with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) aiming to make the contest three-cornered. In Sambhal, which has a sizeable Muslim electorate, the SP's Zia Ur Rahman Barq is facing the BJP's Parmeshwar Lal Saini. Sambhal has remained a tough electoral terrain for the BJP, with the party winning the seat only once.

In Hathras, a Scheduled Caste-reserved constituency, the SP's Jasveer Valmiki is taking on Anoop Pradhan of the BJP.

This phase will be a test for the SP's first family as well, with Dimple Yadav, Akshay Yadav, and Aditya Yadav contesting from Mainpuri, Firozabad, and Budaun, respectively. In Mainpuri, an SP bastion that the party has never lost, sitting MP Ms. Dimple is taking on Jaiveer Singh of the BJP. In Firozabad, BJP candidate Chandra Sen Jadon is contesting against Mr. Akshay.

The campaigning in these seats remained stormy. Mr. Shah questioned SP president Akhilesh Yadav over dynasty politics, wondering whether the Opposition party had failed to find any 'Yadav' candidate from outside the family.

"The SP claims to represent Yadavs. I want to tell you, Mulayam Singh*ji* became the CM, then his son became the CM and after his (Mulayam Singh Yadav) death, the daughter-in-law became the MP. This time Akhilesh*ji* is contesting from Kannauj, Dimple Yadav from Mainpuri, Aditya Yadav from Budaun, Akshay Yadav from Firozabad, and Dharmendra Yadav from Azamgarh. My simple question to Akhilesh*ji* is don't you find other Yadavs outside your family," he asked, addressing a gathering in Mainpuri.

In the region, which has a sizeable OBC population primarily from the Yadav caste group, the SP president in his speeches continuously pushed the caste census, while attacking the BJP over Mr. Shah's 'Yadav' family statement. Mr. Yadav called the BJP not only the "most dangerous family" in India, but also in the whole world.

"The BJP is not only the most dangerous family of India but of the world. Along with them, there is another dangerous family which wanted to end reservation. Now when they want votes they are saying that reservation will not end," Mr. Yadav said at a rally in Etah.

Past performance

A look at 2019 winners and runners-up in the 10 seats going to the polls in U.P. on May 7

Seat	Winner	Vote share (%)	Runner-up	Vote share (%)
Sambhal	SP	55.6	BJP	40.83
Bareilly	BJP	52.91	SP	37.25
Aonla	BJP	51.07	BSP	40.27
Budaun	BJP	47.3	SP	45.59
Etah	BJP	54.56	SP	42.28
Hathras	BJP	59.49	SP	36.87
Firozabad	BJP	46.09	SP	43.41
Mainpuri	SP	53.75	BJP	44.09
Fatehpur sikri	BJP	64.32	INC	16.59
Agra	BJP	56.48	BSP	38.01

Samajwadi Party candidate Dimple Yadav at an election campaign rally in Mainpuri. PTI

Will PM scrap 50% limit on reservation, asks Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi whether he would scrap the 50% limit on reservation while claiming that the Congress's '*Nyay*' guarantees and the promise to conduct a caste census were revolutionary steps that would alter the future of Indian politics.

"Will Modi*ji* speak on whether he will scrap the 50% cap on reservation in the country?" he asked while addressing a rally in Pune city.

Mr. Gandhi reiterated his allegation that the ruling party and its parent body – the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) – wanted to finish off the Constitution.

"The Congress will never let it happen," Mr. Gandhi said.

The Congress candidate from Wayanad and Rae Bareli flayed the media for being in the clutches of Mr. Modi and his industrialist friends, Gautam Adani and the Ambani family.

INBRIEF

SC hears plea on candidates named after political leaders

The Supreme Court on Friday took up a public interest petition claiming that rival political parties are propping up persons with the same names as popular political leaders to hoodwink voters with a logical question. "If their parents have given them the same names, can we come in the way of their right to contest elections? If somebody is named 'Rahul Gandhi' or 'Lalu Prasad Yadav' by their parents, how can the court prevent them from participating in elections as candidates?" Justice B.R. Gavai asked advocate V.K. Biju, the counsel representing the petitioner, Sabu Steephen. After a short hearing, Mr. Biju chose to withdraw the petition.

CPI leader Atul Kumar Anjaan no more; party pays homage

Senior CPI leader Atul Kumar Anjaan passed away on Friday morning after a long spell of illness. He was 70. A gifted orator, he was the party's voice in the Hindi heartland and began his political career as a student leader in Lucknow. He was a member of the National Executive Committee of the CPI. He has been General Secretary of All India Kisan Sabha for five terms. "Comrade Atul Kumar Anjaan was an uncompromising fighter against right-wing fascist forces. His demise is a great loss for Communist Party of India and the Kisan movement in the current situation in the country," party General Secretary D. Raja said.

SC allows CBI to carry on with probe in illegal mining case

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed the CBI to continue its probe into allegations that Pankaj Mishra, a "close associate" of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, and others are engaged in illegal mining in Sahibganj district of the State. However, a Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna stopped the agency from filing a chargesheet till the next date of hearing in the top court on July 8. "Investigation can continue, but the chargesheet/final report will not be filed by the CBI till the next date of hearing," the court ordered. The top court issued notices to the CBI and to the complainant, Bijay Hansda.

Bhima Koregaon case: Hany Babu withdraws appeal in SC

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed Hany Babu, a Delhi University associate professor and an accused in the Bhima Koregaon case, to withdraw his appeal challenging Bombay High Court's rejection of his bail application. Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Bela M. Trivedi, Mr. Babu's counsel said there has been a "change in circumstances" as other accused in the case have now got bail and that Mr. Babu would approach the High Court again. Recently, the Supreme Court had granted bail to Shoma Sen in the same case. The accused in the case have been charged with having links with extremist Maoist groups and booked under the draconian Unlaful Activities Prevention Act.

India press freedom score fell over the last year: RSF

Index looks at freedom enjoyed by journalists globally; India is one of the countries where there's a perception of authorities participating in mass disinformation, says RSF director of campaigns

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

India's score in the World Press Freedom Index fell over the last year, from 36.62 to 31.28, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF for Reporters sans Frontières), which puts together an annual index on the freedom enjoyed by journalists in 180 jurisdictions. India's rank improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024, but this was because other countries had slipped in their rankings. The government has in the past dismissed international rankings of freedoms in India as misinformed and propaganda driven.

Norway and Denmark topped the RSF table while Eritrea was at the bottom, with Syria just ahead of it.

"Press freedom around the world is being threatened by the very people who should be its guarantors – political authorities," the RSF said, noting that press freedoms fell by an average 7.6 points globally.

Press freedom fell by an average 7.6 points globally, according to the index put out by Reporters sans Frontières. FILE PHOTO

The press freedom questionnaire covers five categories – political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and security. Scores for India dropped (worsened) in all but the security indicator.

"India's media has fallen into an 'unofficial state of emergency' since Narendra Modi came to power in 2014 and engineered a spectacular rapprochement between his party, the BJP, and the big families dominating the media," the RSF country file on India said. Reference is also made to "Godi media" as mixing populism and pro-BJP propaganda. Indian journalists who are very critical of the government are subjected to harassment campaigns by BJP-backed trolls, the India country report says.

"Yes, the elections context matters massively in India. I think this is one of the countries where there's a perception of authorities participating in sort of mass disinformation and propaganda," Rebecca Vincent, director of campaigns at RSF, said at a briefing organised by the Foreign Press Association in London, to launch the index.

U.S. slips in ranking

Ms. Vincent said that among the countries going to the polls this year, the U.S. was the most concerning in terms of press freedoms, including because of the global impact developments there had.

"We saw the catastrophic effects globally of the first the Trump presidency and his attitude towards media, who were labelled enemies of the state and treated as such on on the campaign trail," she said. The U.S. press freedom score fell from 71.22 to 66.59 and its rank deteriorated from 45 to 55.

India, Indonesia agree to enhance defence industry collaboration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Giridhar Aramane and Air Marshal Donny Ermawan Taufanto in New Delhi.

India and Indonesia on Friday agreed to enhance collaboration in areas of defence industry, maritime security and multilateral cooperation at the seventh India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting held in New Delhi. It was chaired by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Secretary-General of Indonesia's Ministry of Defence Air Marshal Donny Ermawan Taufanto.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction at the expanding scope of defence cooperation between the two countries. The progress made on various bilateral initiatives deliberated in meetings of working groups on defence cooperation and defence industries cooperation was also reviewed by the co-chairs, a Defence Ministry statement said.

During the visit, Air Marshal Taufanto visited the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) headquarters in New Delhi as well as the TATA Advanced Systems and Larsen & Toubro defence facilities in Pune. "He also held deliberations with other Indian defence industry partners like Bharat Forge, Mahindra Defence and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and discussed ways to enhance defence industrial capabilities by cooperation in research and joint production," the statement said.

Air Marshal Taufanto also called on CDS General Anil Chauhan. On his arrival in the national capital, the Indonesian military officer laid a wreath and paid homage to fallen heroes at the National War Memorial.

Organ donation hit by poor identification of brain death cases

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Poor identification and certification of brain stem death or brain death cases is keeping the rate of organ donations at low levels in India, despite the availability of many potential cases, the Union Health Ministry has said.

Expressing concern over the rate of organ donations in the country remaining at less than one donor per million population in a year, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) asked health authorities in States/Union Territories to identify each potential brain death case admitted in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and inquire whether the potential donor had pledged for organ donation. If not, hospital authorities should make family members aware of the opportunity to donate organs before the heart stops.

Issuing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994, the DGHS said the doctor on duty in hospitals, with the help of the transplant coordinator, should make necessary inquiries after the brain death cases are certified by the competent authority.

Requesting every hospital to facilitate and monitor the certification of brain death cases to ensure compliance with the THOTA Act and Rules, the Health Ministry asked hospitals to install 'Required Request Display Boards' at strategic locations conveying the message to the public that in the unfortunate event of brain death or cardiac arrest, donation of organs and tissues – like kidney, liver, heart, pancreas, eyes, skin and bones etc. – could save lives.

Going by the transplant data, a total of 16,041 organs, mostly kidneys, were donated in 2022. Delhi topped the country with 3,818 donations.

Manipur groups mark one year of conflict with cry for peace, justice

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Both Kuki-Zo and Meitei groups on Friday held events across Manipur and in Delhi's Jantar Mantar to mark one year since the beginning of the ongoing ethnic conflict in the Northeastern State between the two communities, with several Kuki-Zo and Meitei organisations calling for peace and making their case before the Centre.

Members of the Kuki-Zo community stage a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) in Churachandpur held a prayer service in the morning to honour people from their community who had been killed in the violence so far, civil society organisations in Imphal Valley such as the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) along with other similar outfits passed a resolution calling for a plan for permanent peace in the State. Events were also held by Kuki-Zo bodies in Kangpokpi, with a candlelight vigil being taken out in both the hill districts for the people they had lost in the conflict so far.

The ethnic conflict in Manipur began one year ago on May 3 between the valley-based majority Meitei people and the hills-based Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zo people in the immediate backdrop of a Manipur High Court order that directed the State government to consider the inclusion of Meiteis in the ST list.

In the one year since, over 221 people and at least a dozen security personnel have lost their lives, thousands have been injured and over 50,000 people internally displaced. In addition, at least 31 people from the Meitei community and 15 from the Kuki-Zo people are still missing.

On Friday morning, the Kuki Students' Organisation-Delhi NCR held a protest gathering at Jantar Mantar, which was attended by hundreds of people. Later in the day, Meitei civil society organisations based in Delhi held a similar demonstration at the same location. Both protests called for a return to peace, accountability, and justice for the people of Manipur.

The KSO's Delhi chapter also sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister, arguing that the community will need the Centre to set out measures for their self-administration, in order for the healing process to begin. The Kuki Inpi Manipur also sent a memorandum to the Centre setting out a four-point agenda.

This included demands that the bodies yet to be returned to them be done as soon as possible, establishment of measures to ensure the safety and security of the Kuki-Zosand expediting a political solution for the ongoing crisis.

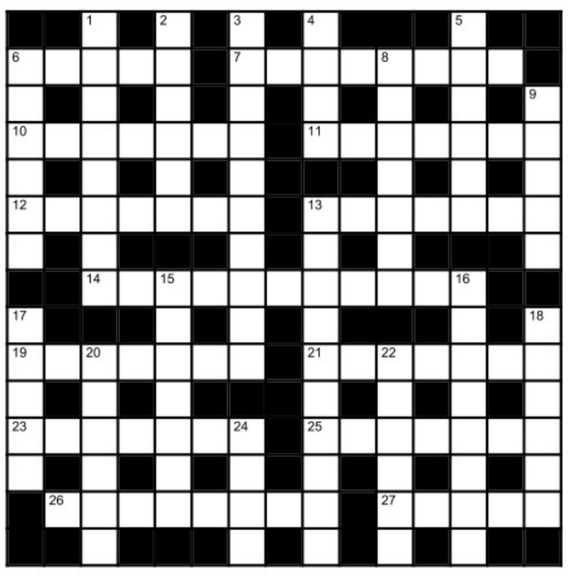
In a joint statement, several Meitei civil society organisations insisted that the "root cause of the Manipur crisis is the nefarious trifecta of illegal immigration, poppy plantations for illicit drug trade and armed Chin Kuki militancy".

TH CROSSWORD + 14166

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 Colour of hard core criminal (5)
7 American shot, no public trial? (2,6)
10 Fancy coat, not even worth (7)
11 Girl has an issue with trade (7)
12 Left out before his awful and uncouth behaviour (7)
13 Edge out garment? (7)
14 Takes off without success, allowed for an actress (4,7)
19 Talk about one tree (7)
21 Wish to wear torn dress? (7)
23 France regularly gets involved in the orient, it is keen (7)
25 Ship extremely large in volume (7)
26 He loves an animal caught in rain (8)
27 Shouting to put one in the front end (5)

Down

1 Rodent's big part protecting Indian prime minister (8)
2 Sign of empty garage and car (6)
3 President's cavalcade finally is here, now moving (10)
4 Specific aim to empty everything, it's a fraud (4)
5 Unorthodox, sad, in grief, losing interest (6)
6 Not even once in vogue, but it's magic! (6)
8 Cold wind and fog, really odd (7)
9 Took trouble over "Yankee in Japan" (5)
13 Plant with grand aroma, perhaps (10)
15 Reject round cheese cloth (7)
16 Instrument in that place comes 30 seconds later (8)
17 Piled up stones cover both sides, see outside (5)
18 Stand, start again, close borders (6)
20 Cannot allow resistance in the country (6)
22 Fishes, not close to shore - wasting time (6)
24 God sitting high in the mountain peak (4)

SUDOKU

1		4						
			4	2				7
3	9							
4			9	1			8	
	8		5		2		3	
	7			6	8			1
							2	5
9				7	6			
						1		6

No.SS6148 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

R		L		Y				P		C		I		B
E	L	I	T	E		P	E	R	S	O	N	N	E	L
C		M		T		I		E		M		V		I
O	P	I	N	I	O	N		S	Y	M	B	O	L	S
R		T				E		I		O		I		T
D	I	S	P	E	R	S	E	D		N	I	C	H	E
				M				E		C		E		R
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E		L		A		X				L				
M	O	T	E	T		P	S	E	U	D	O	N	Y	M
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N	E	G	L	I	G	E	N	T		M	O	O	S	E
E		O		C		S				O		W		R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	3	1	6	8	5	7	9
7	8	9	4	2	5	1	6	3
1	5	6	9	7	3	4	8	2
9	7	2	5	3	6	8	1	4
8	1	4	2	9	7	3	5	6
3	6	5	8	1	4	9	2	7
5	3	7	6	8	9	2	4	1
2	9	8	7	4	1	6	3	5
6	4	1	3	5	2	7	9	8

FAITH

The devout mercenary

The 63 Nayanmars (Saivite saints) were drawn from all walks of life, from prince to pauper. What unified them was their complete faith in Lord Siva, which they expressed by serving Sivanadiyars (devotees of Siva) with utmost humility. They were staunch believers in the principle of serving devotees as a better way of showing their faith in Siva, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

Munaiyaduvar Nayanmar is one such unique Nayanmar. Born in Needur, near Mayavaram in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu, he used the remuneration from his vocation as a mercenary to feed Siva's devotees. Munaiyaduvar literally means one who emerges victorious over enemies in warfare. One may wonder if a mercenary – one who joins any side in a war for payment – can be viewed as someone who is on the side of dharma, and can be hailed as serving the Lord. It is well established that Munaiyaduvar was highly regarded. He offered his services only to those armies where the leader had fought and lost in a just cause. Before every assignment, he conducted a thorough enquiry into the cause of the dispute, and only if he was convinced that there was injustice, would he extend his support. He was always victorious and with his earnings, he fed the adiyars and also donated the rest for the upkeep of temples.

INBRIEF

Fossil-fuel capacity rose 2.44% in FY24, non-fossil grew 10.8%

The country's fossil fuel-based power generation capacity increased 2.44% to 243.22 GW in FY24 from 237.27 GW in March 2023, according to official figures. There was a 10.8% rise in non-fossil fuel based capacity (renewable energy sources) addition at 190.57 gigawatt (GW) in 2023-24 over 172.01 GW in 2022-23, the data showed. The nuclear power capacity addition rose to 8.18 GW, from 6.78 GW in the last fiscal year, posting a year-on-year rise of 20.6%. PTI

Dr. Reddy's Labs introduces Doxycycline capsules in U.S.

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has introduced Doxycycline Capsules, 40 mg, in the U.S. market. A therapeutic generic equivalent of Swiss drugmaker Galderma Holdings' Oracea (doxycycline, USP) Capsules, 40 mg, the product is a tetracycline-class drug. It is indicated for treatment of inflammatory lesions (papules and pustules) associated with rosacea in adult patients. The introduction by Dr. Reddy's follows U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval.

Air-cooler firm Symphony triples Q4 net to ₹48 crore

Air-cooler maker Symphony Ltd. reported fourth-quarter consolidated net profit surged threefold to ₹48 crore from the year-earlier period. Revenue from operations climbed 8% to ₹332 crore. Gross margin rose 720 bps to 48.5%. For FY24, net profit rose 28% to ₹148 crore . Revenue from operations slid 3% to ₹1,156 crore. Gross margin at 48% increased 420 bps for the full year. The board recommended final dividend of ₹8 (400%) per equity share of ₹2 each.

March mining output growth slows to 1.2% in signal for IIP

Mining accounts for 14.3% of the Index of Industrial Production and had grown 8% in February, lifting IIP growth to a four-month peak of 5.7%; the expansion in mining output hit a 19-month low

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's mining output growth slid to a 19-month low of 1.2% in March, from February's 8% pace, hinting at a possible slowing in the month's overall industrial output, the data for which is due to be released by the National Statistical Office on May 10.

Mining constitutes 14.3% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). Industrial output growth hit a four-month high of 5.7% in February with mining (8%) and electricity growth (7.5%) lifting growth. Manufacturing constitutes 77.6% of the IIP and grew 5% in February.

With growth in the eight core sectors slowing to 5.2% in March from February's 7.1%, economists expect a deceleration in industrial output growth, with some estimating it to slow to 3.5%-5%. The eight infrastructure sectors make up 40.27% of the IIP.

The index of mineral production for March was 156.1, which is 1.2% higher than its level in March 2023, the Ministry of Mines said on Friday. Some of the non-fuel minerals that logged positive growth included copper concentrate, gold, manganese ore, diamond, graphite, limestone and magnesite.

In FY24, mining output rose 7.5%, faster than 5.8% in 2022-23. Iron ore, limestone and aluminium production hit new records during the year, the ministry said, rising 7.4%, 10.7% and 2.1%, respectively.

Drag on pace

Mining output data from the Ministry of Mines hints at a likely slowing in IIP growth in March

- March IIP data is due to be **released by the NSO on May 10**
- In FY24, mining output rose 7.5%, **faster than 5.8% in 2022-23**
- Iron ore, limestone and aluminium output hit new records last year, **rising 7.4%, 10.7% and 2.1%, respectively**

SEBI puts 7 Adani companies on notice for violations

Reuters
MUMBAI

India's markets regulator sent notices of regulatory violations to seven companies of the Adani conglomerate, including its flagship Adani Enterprises, the group said in filings.

The regulator began probing the Adani group after Hindenburg Research in January 2023 alleged improper use of tax havens and stock manipulation by the group, accusations the group denied.

Adani Enterprises said the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had sent two notices in the January-March quarter of this year, saying it had not complied with provisions for listed firms and had violated disclosure rules on some related-party transactions.

The company did not give details. However, it said the management believed the notices had no "material consequential effect" for relevant financial statements and there was "no material non-compliance of applicable laws and regulations".

Adani Green Energy, Adani Power, Adani Total Gas, Adani Energy Solutions, Adani Wilmar, and Adani Ports also received notices from SEBI in the first quarter, the firms said.

Sensex slides 1% amid broad-based sell-off

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex fell 732.96 points, or 0.98%, to 73,878.15 on Friday as profit booking in the wake of recent gains combined with concerns about valuations having run ahead and recent data showing FIIs paring exposures to the Indian market led to a broad-based sell-off.

The fall in the Sensex was led by blue chips L&T (2.74%), Maruti (2.37%), Bharti Airtel (2.25%), Nestle (2.22%) and Reliance Industries (2.17%). Only six of the 30 Sensex stocks eked out marginal gains.

The Nifty-50 index fell 0.76%, to 22,475.85.

'Significant volatility'

"Once again, the markets experienced significant volatility, ending the day with a loss of nearly 1%," said Ajit Mishra, SVP-Research, Religare Broking Ltd. "Despite a positive start, driven by strong global cues, profit-taking in heavyweight stocks not only wiped out early gains but also pushed the index into negative territory," Mr. Mishra added.

"Major sectors such as auto, IT, and realty were among the primary losers. Additionally, broader indices also saw a decline of almost half a percent each," he noted.

"The sharp drop in the index has nullified the gains made over the past four sessions, although it managed to hold above the support zone," Mr. Mishra observed.

Adani Green Q4 profit falls 39% to ₹310 cr. after costs rise

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Adani Green Energy Ltd., (AGEL) on Friday posted a 38.85% decline in consolidated net profit to ₹310 crore for the March quarter, mainly on account of increased expenses.

Its net profit was ₹507 crore in the January-March period of the preceding 2022-23, AGEL said .

Q4 FY24, AGEL's total income fell to ₹2,806 cr from ₹2,977 cr a year ago.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,878	-0.98
US Dollar	83.45	0.00
Gold	72,000	-0.48
Brent oil	83.26	0.07

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2993.25	-46.35
Adani Ports	1320.30	-18.50
Apollo Hosp	6009.60	51.05
Asian Paints	2929.75	-45.65
Axis Bank	1141.50	-8.35
Bajaj Auto	9105.60	-5.05
Bajaj Finserv	1627.30	11.85
Bajaj Finance	6931.50	48.80
Bharti Airtel	1277.40	-26.65
BPCL	629.85	-4.80
Britannia Ind	4744.60	-15.05
Cipla	1424.75	4.70
Coal India	474.60	20.70
Divis Lab	3950.95	-13.70
Dr Reddys Lab	6349.55	62.05
Eicher Motors	4599.25	-3.15
Grasim Ind	2481.35	44.00
HCL Tech	1348.05	-12.65
HDFC Bank	1519.60	-12.65
HDFC Life	565.90	-10.45
Hero MotoCorp	4552.75	-8.75
Hindalco	647.10	5.65
Hind Unilever	2217.05	-9.25
ICICI Bank	1142.05	2.60
IndusInd Bank	1483.70	-21.50
Infosys	1416.30	1.85
ITC	436.45	-2.55
JSW Steel	874.20	-16.15
Kotak Bank	1546.70	-28.95
L&T	3499.80	-99.70
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4651.95	-40.75
M&M	2193.00	7.85
Maruti Suzuki	12492.15	-313.20
NestleIndia	2456.10	-56.20
NTPC	364.95	-4.10
ONGC	286.10	3.30
PowerGrid Corp	310.85	-2.75
Reliance Ind	2868.00	-65.10
SBI Life	1443.25	-17.65
State Bank	831.45	1.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2588.55	6.45
Sun Pharma	1511.15	-7.85
TataConsumerProduct	1094.30	3.15
Tata Motors	1013.40	-14.40
Tata Steel	166.50	-0.85
TCS	3843.40	-19.90
Tech Mahindra	1250.45	-16.45
Titan	3533.90	-34.55
UltraTech Cement	9816.30	-167.15
Wipro	457.35	-0.05

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.22	83.54
Euro	89.40	89.75
British Pound	104.49	104.90
Japanese Yen (100)	54.36	54.57
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.54
Swiss Franc	91.75	92.10
Singapore Dollar	61.53	61.78
Canadian Dollar	60.90	61.14
Malaysian Ringitt	17.56	17.63
Australian Dollar	54.78	55.00

Source:Indian Bank

Rane Brake Q4 net rises 28%, board okays ₹30 dividend

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Brake linings and disc pads manufacturer Rane Brake Lining Ltd. has recorded a 28% rise in profit after tax for the January-March quarter at ₹15.4 crore.

Total revenue grew by 12.6% to ₹186.7 crore.

For the financial year ended March 31, profit after tax rose by 20.4% to ₹40.3 crore. Total revenue grew 9.2% to ₹663 crore.

The board has recommended a dividend of ₹30 per equity share on the paid-up capital of 77,29,871 shares of ₹10 each. The company, in a statement, said it achieved the highest sales for the quarter and the financial year 2023-24.

Tata Tech Q4 PAT falls 27%, FY24 net rises to ₹679 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Technologies Ltd. (TTL) reported Q4 consolidated net profit declined 27% to ₹157.2 crore from ₹216.56 crore in the year-earlier period. Net margin was at 12.1%.

For the quarter ended March, the firm reported lower revenue from operations at ₹1,301 crore against ₹1,402 crore a year earlier.

For FY24, TTL's net rose to ₹679 crore from ₹624 crore in FY23. Revenue from operations rose by 15.9% YoY to ₹5,117 crore.

The board recommended a final dividend of ₹8.40 per equity share, and a special dividend of ₹1.65 per equity share.

Warren Harris, CEO, TTL said, "In the last 3 years, our revenue from operations grew at 29% CAGR while operating EBITDA grew at a 35% CAGR. We closed a total of 12 large deals in FY24 which included one $50 million plus deal, and five deals in the $15 to $25 million range."

Savitha Balachandran

"Our large deal pipeline remains healthy and continues to grow. We are engaged in several large deal discussions with existing and new customers and anticipate an uptick in deal conversions in the current quarter. We continue to lead our industry in Gen AI and Software Defined Devices (SDx) services - as evidenced by the endorsement that we have received from BMW," he added.

Savitha Balachandran, CFO, said, "We will continue to follow a balanced approach of exercising operational discipline while strategically investing in capacity and capabilities to seize the opportunity presented by the industry's structural transformation."

"Overall, I am pleased with our execution in FY24 and, also with having delivered over 18% margins consistently over the last three consecutive years, Ms. Balachandran said.

Atanu Chakraborty

Chakraborty reappointed as HDFC Bank Chairman

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Banking regulator the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of Atanu Chakraborty as Part-Time Chairman of HDFC Bank for a period of three years with effect from May 5, HDFC Bank said in a filing with the stock exchanges.

MRF posts surprise drop in profit as rubber prices jump

Reuters
BENGALURU

The tyre maker's expenses climbed 9.5% to ₹57.99 billion following a 7% surge in raw material costs

India's MRF reported a surprise drop in its fourth-quarter profit, as the tyre maker faced pressure from a spike in rubber prices.

Ancilliary companies benefit from higher automobile sales and production, as they provide parts for the vehicles. Overall sales of vehicles in India in the fourth quarter rose more than 20% year-on-year and production climbed more than 21%, as per industry data.

Prices of rubber rose roughly 10%, as per analysts, responding to higher crude oil prices.

Key input

Rubber is a key raw material for tyre makers, and often takes direction from oil prices as it competes for market share with synthetic rubber, which is made from crude oil.

MRF's rival CEAT also posted a surprise drop in profit. MRF's standalone profit from continuing operations fell 7.6% year-on-year to ₹3.80 billion ($45.6 million) in the three months ended March 31.

Analysts, on average, expected profit to climb to ₹5.05 billion, as per LSEG data. Revenue from operations rose 8.6% to ₹62.15 billion, while expenses climbed 9.5% to ₹57.99 billion due to a 7% surge in raw material costs.

Shares of MRF fell as much as 4.6% to ₹1,28,495. The stock was down nearly 3% prior to the results. Shares of CEAT slid about 10% earlier in the day.

Tesla versus Tesla: U.S. carmaker sues Indian namesake for copying trademark

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Elon Musk's carmaker Tesla has sued an Indian battery maker for infringing its trademark by using the brand name 'Tesla Power' to promote its products, seeking damages and a permanent injunction against the company from a New Delhi judge.

Tesla, in a hearing at the Delhi High Court this week, said the Indian company had continued advertising its products with the 'Tesla Power' brand despite a cease-and-desist notice sent in April 2022, according to details of the proceedings posted on the court website on Friday.

Copy cat: Mr. Musk's Tesla has accused the Indian company of using trade names 'Tesla Power' and 'Tesla Power USA'. REUTERS

During the hearing, the Indian company, Tesla Power India Pvt. Ltd., argued its main business is to make "lead acid batteries" and it has no intention of making electric vehicles.

The judge allowed the Indian firm three weeks to submit written responses after it handed over a set of documents in support of its defence, the court record shows.

Mr. Musk's Tesla is incorporated in Delaware, and it has accused the Indian company of using trade names 'Tesla Power' and 'Tesla Power USA'. The court record included screenshots of a website that showed Tesla Power USA LLC was also headquartered in Delaware and had been 'acknowledged for being a pioneer and leader in introducing affordable batteries' with 'very strong presence in India'.

A Tesla Power representative told Reuters it has been present in India much before Mr. Musk's Tesla and had all government approvals. "We have never claimed to be related to Elon Musk's Tesla," Tesla Power's Manoj Pahwa said.

The Tesla India trademark case will next be heard on May 22.

Record breaking Q2 growth in India: Apple

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Apple witnessed significant growth in India and the country remains a "major focus" said Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook.

"We did grow strong double-digit (in India). And so, we were very, very pleased about it. It was a new March quarter revenue record for us. As you know, as I've said before, I see it as an incredibly exciting market," he said in the firm's Q2 earnings call.

The technology giant posted a Q2 revenue of $90.8 billion, a slide of 4% year-on-year.

No. 1/2024-25

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GENEVA

Military assault on Rafah 'could lead to bloodbath', says WHO chief

REUTERS

An Israeli military assault on Rafah could end in a "bloodbath", the head of the World Health Organisation warned on Friday. "WHO is deeply concerned that a full-scale military operation in Rafah could lead to a bloodbath, and further weaken an already broken health system," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X. AFP

WASHINGTON

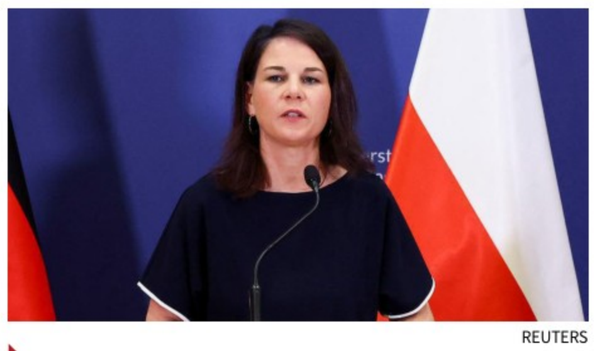
Russian troops deploy to Niger air base housing U.S. soldiers

AFP

U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Thursday that Russian soldiers had deployed to an air base in Niger that also houses American troops, after the country's military rulers decided to expel U.S. forces. When asked, Mr. Austin said the Russian deployment did not pose a "significant issue... in terms of our force protection". AFP

BRUSSELS

Russia will face consequences for cyberattack, says German Minister



REUTERS

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Friday said Russia will face consequences after accusing its military intelligence service of masterminding an "absolutely intolerable" cyberattack, as NATO and European Union member countries said they will not let Russia's "malicious" behaviour in cyberspace go unanswered. AP

OSLO

Pakistan extradites Oslo Pride shooting suspect to Norway

AFP

Pakistan has extradited to Norway, Arfan Bhatti, a known Islamist suspected of masterminding an Oslo shooting on the eve of the 2022 Pride festival, Norwegian authorities said on Friday. Bhatti, who denies any involvement and had opposed extradition, will be placed in custody on arrival in Oslo, Norwegian police said. AFP

Hamas to send a delegation to Egypt for ceasefire talks

Egyptian and American mediators report signs of compromise in recent days after months of negotiations; it will take until 2040 to rebuild all the homes destroyed in Gaza, says a UN report

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Hamas said on Thursday that it was sending a delegation to Egypt for further ceasefire talks, in a new sign of progress in attempts by international mediators to hammer out an agreement between Israel and the militant group to end the war in Gaza.

After months of stop-and-start negotiations, the ceasefire efforts appear to have reached a critical stage, with Egyptian and American mediators reporting signs of compromise in recent days. But chances for the deal remain entangled with the key question of whether Israel will accept an end to the war without reaching its stated goal of destroying Hamas.

Lengthy wait: People walk in a camp for displaced people in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip by the border with Egypt. AFP

Crippled economy

The stakes in the ceasefire negotiations were made clear in a new UN report that said if the Israel-Hamas war stops today, it will still take until 2040 to rebuild all the homes that have been destroyed by nearly seven months of Israeli bombardment and ground offensives in Gaza. It warned that the impact of the damage to the economy will set back development for generations and will only get worse with every month fighting continues. The proposal that U.S. and Egyptian mediators have put to Hamas – apparently with Israel's acceptance – sets out a three-stage process that would bring an immediate six-week ceasefire and partial release of Israeli hostages, but also negotiations over a "permanent calm" that includes some sort of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, according to an Egyptian official. Hamas is seeking guarantees for a full Israeli withdrawal and complete end to the war.

The brokers are hopeful that the deal will bring an end to a conflict that has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials.

Tories suffer losses in U.K. local polls; Labour calls for a general election

Associated Press
LONDON

Britain's governing Conservative Party suffered heavy losses in local election results on Friday, further cementing expectations that the Labour Party will return to power after 14 years in a U.K. general election that will take place in the coming months.

Labour won control of councils in England that the party hasn't held for decades and was successful in a special by-election for Parliament that, if repeated in the general election, would lead to one of the Conservatives' biggest-ever defeats.

Though the results overall make for grim reading for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, he was able to breathe a sigh of relief when the Conservative mayor of Tees Valley in the northeast of England was re-elected, albeit with a depressed share of the vote. The victory of Ben Houchen may be enough to cushion Mr. Sunak from any revolt by Conservative lawmakers.

British Labour Party leader Keir Starmer and his wife walk outside a polling station during the elections in London on Thursday. REUTERS

For Keir Starmer, the Labour Party leader, it's generally been a stellar set of results, with the only real negative coming in some areas with large Muslim populations, such as Blackburn and Oldham in northwest England, where the party's candidates appear to have suffered as a result of the leadership's strongly pro-Israel stance in the conflict in Gaza.

Perhaps most important in the context of the looming general election, which has to take place by January but could come as soon as next month, Labour won back the parliamentary seat of Blackpool South in the northwest of England. The seat had gone Conservative in the last general election in 2019.

In the contest, triggered by the resignation of a Conservative lawmaker following a lobbying scandal, Labour's Chris Webb secured 10,825 votes, to his second-placed Conservative opponent's 3,218. The swing from Conservative to Labour, at 26%, was the third biggest since World War II, which would be more than enough to see the party return to power for the first time since 2010.

Thursday's elections in large parts of England were important in themselves, with voters deciding who will run many aspects of their daily lives in the coming years. But with a general election looming, they are being viewed through a national prism.

Campus protests over Gaza war hit Australia

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Hundreds of supporters of Israel and Gaza faced off at a Sydney university on Friday, bringing echoes of U.S. college protests and West Asia tumult to a campus and continent on the other side of the world.

Rival demonstrators came eye-to-eye shouting slogans and waving flags. Still, except for a few heated exchanges, the protests passed off peacefully.

French police remove students from campus

Associated Press
PARIS

French police on Friday peacefully removed dozens of students from a building at the Paris Institute of Political Studies, known as Sciences Po, who had gathered in support of Palestinians, echoing similar encampments and solidarity demonstrations across the United States.

Students waved Palestinian flags and chanted slogans in support of residents of Gaza, as Israel continues its offensive following the deadly October 7 Hamas-led attack that triggered the Israeli-Hamas war.

The Sciences Po building had been occupied since Thursday evening. The university administration had closed the main buildings and moved classes online.

Pro-Palestinian students were planning to hold a protest later on Friday in front of the Pantheon monument to call for an end to Israel's offensive in Gaza.

On Thursday, similar protests took place in some other universities across the country.

China sends a probe to get samples from the far side of the moon

Associated Press
TAIPEI

It is the latest advance in China's increasingly sophisticated space exploration mission

China on Friday launched a lunar probe to land on the far side of the moon and return with samples that could provide insights into differences between the less-explored region and the better-known near side. It is the latest advance in China's increasingly sophisticated space exploration programme, which is now competing with the U.S., still the leader in space.

China also has a three-member crew on its own orbiting space station and aims to put astronauts on the moon by 2030. Three Chinese lunar probe missions are planned over the next four years.

Free from exposure to Earth and other interference, the moon's somewhat mysterious far side is ideal for radio astronomy and other scientific work. Because the far side never faces Earth, a relay satellite is needed to maintain communications.

The rocket carrying the Chang'e-6 lunar probe lifted off on Friday at 5.27 p.m. as planned from the Wenchang launch centre on the island province of Hainan.

Shortly afterward, launch mission commander Zhang Zuosheng said the launch had gone off exactly as planned and the spacecraft was on its set trajectory. "I declare this launch mission a complete success," Mr. Zhang said.

Nepal faces massive Internet outages

Agence France-Presse
KATHMANDU

Internet providers in Nepal warned on Friday the Himalayan republic was facing widespread outages because of payments owed to Indian companies, a day after service disruptions that affected millions of people.

Several private Internet companies saw their customers forced offline on Thursday night when their upstream partners in neighbouring India cut connections citing non-payment, the Internet Service Providers Association of Nepal (ISPAN) said.

Data from Internet outage monitor Netblocks showed 18 Nepali Internet providers had their bandwidth severely curtailed or cut entirely during the five-hour outage.

"It may happen again. It is not in our hands," ISPAN chief executive Suvash Khadka said.

Broadband providers owe about three billion Nepali rupees ($22.5 million) to Indian vendors but have not been able to transfer the money due to the lack of government approval.

Sport

Record-extending Leverkusen has one one foot in the Europa League final

FOOTBALL

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Bayer Leverkusen has one foot in the Europa League final after winning 2-0 at Roma on Thursday to extend its remarkable unbeaten run to 47 matches.

Goals in each half from Florian Wirtz and Robert Andrich ensured victory for Xabi Alonso's men in the Italian capital and gave the Bundesliga champion a great chance of reaching the final in Dublin later this month.

Leverkusen will meet either Atalanta or Marseille in Ireland should they hold out in Germany next week.

Off the mark: Wirtz nets Leverkusen's first against Roma. AFP

On the evidence of its performance in Rome it will be firm favourite to win its first European trophy since the old UEFA Cup in 1988.

Alonso's team has needed a string of last gasp goals to keep its unbeaten run going in recent weeks but there was no need for any frantic finishes in the Italian capital as Leverkusen's superiority was fully on display.

Roma face a huge task if they are to reach a third European final in as many years after barely troubling Matej Kovar's goal beyond Romelu Lukaku striking the woodwork with the scores level.

Finely poised

Marseille's semifinal tie against Atalanta is finely poised going into the return after the teams drew 1-1 in Thursday's first leg in France.

Gianluca Scamacca gave Atalanta an early lead to silence a huge crowd at a packed Velodrome, but Chancel Mbemba quickly pulled Marseille level with a stunning strike from outside the box.

The results (semifinals, first legs): AS Roma 0 lost to Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Wirtz 28, Andrich 73); Marseille 1 (Mbemba 20) drew with Atalanta 1 (Scamacca 11).

Chelsea shatters Spurs' top four bid

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Chelsea delivered a hammer blow to Tottenham's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League with a 2-0 win against its spluttering London rival at home on Thursday.

Trevoh Chalobah's first goal since March 2022 put Chelsea ahead in the first half before Nicolas Jackson wrapped up the points in the closing stages with his 14th goal of a difficult first season.

Fifth-placed Tottenham's third successive defeat leaves it seven points behind fourth-placed Aston Villa.

The result: Chelsea 2 (Chalobah 24, Jackson 72) bt Tottenham 0.

Joseph named in West Indies squad

T20 WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
BRIDGETOWN

Shamar Joseph, who made a stunning start to his Test career against Australia earlier this year but is yet to play a T20 International, was named on Friday in the West Indies 15-man squad for the Twenty20 World Cup which takes place in the Caribbean and United States.

There is no place in the squad, however for Sunil Narine but Shimron Hetmyer returns to the squad, which is skippered by Rovman Powell, after missing the T20I series against Australia.

The Windies boasts a plethora of big hitters and all-rounders, including Nicholas Pooran, Andre Russell, Hetmyer, Powell, Jason Holder, Sherfane Rutherford and Romario Shepherd.

Part of Group C alongside Afghanistan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Uganda, the two-time champion kicks off its campaign on June 2 against PNG in Guyana.

The squad: Rovman Powell (capt.), Alzarri Joseph, Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Gudakesh Motie, Nicholas Pooran, Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford, and Romario Shepherd.

Debutant Tanzid drives Bangladesh's win

Agence France-Presse
CHITTAGONG

Debutant opening batsman Tanzid Hasan rode his luck on Friday to hit an unbeaten 67 (47b, 8x4, 2x6) to guide Bangladesh to an eight-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the first T20 international here.

The host raced to 126 for two under 16 overs after bowling out Zimbabwe for 124 which at one stage was struggling at 41 for seven.

The scores: Zimbabwe 124 in 20 overs (Madande 43, Masakadza 34, Taskin 3/14, Saifuddin 3/15) lost to Bangladesh 126 for two in 15.2 overs (Tanzid 67 n.o., Hridoy 33 n.o.).

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

We did a lot of things right: Parag on RR's one-run loss against SRH

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

RR's Riyan Parag opened up about his side's one-run loss against SRH. "We did a lot of things right. We just probably made a few errors in like 2-3 overs and that cost us the game," said Parag. "But, again, you have got to give credit to how they bowled. It's their home ground. Especially Cummins, bowling that 19th over," he said.

SPECIAL TALENT

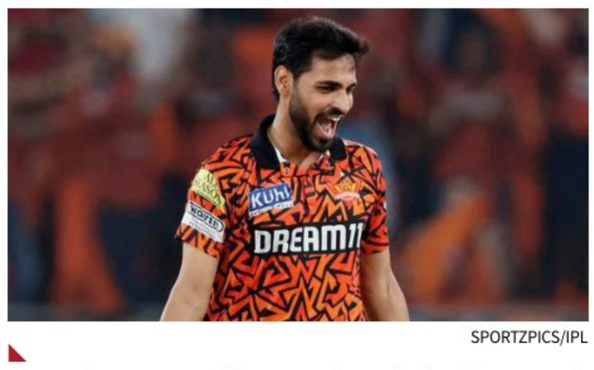
Nitish becoming one of my favourite cricketers, says Watson

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Shane Watson hailed SRH's all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy. "He is becoming one of my favourite cricketers to watch for sure. All of the shots that he played were of a rare quality. For a young man to have that skill development and to execute under pressure against the best bowlers in the world is special," Watson told *JioCinema*.

LAST-BALL WINNER

I was just focused on the process, says SRH's Bhuvneshwar



SPORTZPICS/IPL

Bhuvneshwar Kumar said he was just focused on bowling two good deliveries after scripting SRH's one-run win. "I wasn't thinking much about the result. There was no discussion, was just focused on the process. Was thinking just about bowling two good balls and anything could have happened," Bhuvneshwar said.

DIFFERENT ROLE

Kohli should open, Rohit needs to bat at three in T20 WC: Ajay Jadeja

K. MURALI KUMAR

Ajay Jadeja believes that India skipper Rohit Sharma should push himself to the number three spot and promote Virat Kohli to the opening position in the 2024 T20 World Cup. "For me, Virat Kohli opens and Rohit Sharma bats at three. He gets a little cushion and gets to understand the game," Ajay Jadeja told *JioCinema*.

Venkatesh and Pandey's partnership proves the difference as Knight Riders edge Mumbai Indians

Their 83-run stand helps the visitor post 169 after being in trouble; Suryakumar's efforts not enough as the spin duo of Varun and Narine, along with Starc, strike telling blows

IPL-17

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Dominate the middle overs and win the match. That seems to be the flavour of the Indian Premier League this season. The same was on display at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday as the Kolkata Knight Riders clinched a convincing win despite having its back to the wall early on in the game.

As a result, in a game influenced heavily by bowling units with all 20 wickets falling on the night, it was the 83-run association between Venkatesh Iyer and Manish Pandey (Impact Player) in the middle overs of the first innings that turned out to be the difference between Knight Riders and host Mumbai Indians.

Had it not been for the duo's partnership, Knight Riders - reeling at 57 for five - would have struggled to put on the 169 runs it did before being bowled out in the last over.

Suryakumar Yadav then tried his best to take a cue from Venkatesh but thanks to KKR's spin duo of Varun Chakaravarthy and Sunil Narine controlling the middle overs, Suryakumar perished even before MI got close to the finish line.

As a result, KKR emerged as a clear second in the standings while MI's campaign is all but over after its eighth loss of the season.

Venkatesh carried on from his sterling hundred at the same venue last season to notch up his fourth fifty-plus score in five outings against MI. He found an ally in veteran Pandey who kept the scoreboard flowing.

In the nine-over period from the seventh till the 15th over, KKR added 75 runs for the loss of Rinku Singh, who top-edged back to Piyush Chawla off the first ball after the PowerPlay. MI lost three wickets while adding 73 runs in the same period. The additional wickets proved to be the difference.

Once Suryakumar's skier off Andre Russell was pouched by Phil Salt, the game was all but over.

Just like Nuwan Thushara in the PowerPlay and Jasprit Bumrah at the death in the first essay, Mitchell Starc targeted the stumps to finish the game off in a hurry.

Shining knights: Venkatesh's 52-ball 70 and Starc's four-for highlighted Knight Riders' 24-run victory. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Phil Salt c Tilak b Thushara 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Sunil Narine b Hardik 8 *(8b, 1x6)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Suryakumar b Thushara 13 *(6b, 2x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c David b Thushara 6 *(4b, 1x4)*, Venkatesh Iyer b Bumrah 70 *(52b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Rinku Singh c & b Chawla 9 *(8b, 2x4)*, Manish Pandey (**Impact Player in place of Raghuvanshi**) c sub (Brevis) b Hardik 42 *(31b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Andre Russell (run out) 7 *(2b, 1x6)*, Ramandeep Singh c Coetzee b Bumrah 2 *(4b)*, Mitchell Starc b Bumrah 0 *(2b)*, Vaibhav Arora (not out) 0; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-5): 7; Total (in 19.5 overs): 169.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-7 (Salt, 0.4 overs), 2-22 (Raghuvanshi, 2.2), 3-28 (Shreyas, 2.6), 4-43 (Narine, 4.2), 5-57 (Rinku, 6.1), 6-140 (Pandey, 16.2), 7-153 (Russell, 16.6), 8-155 (Ramandeep, 17.4), 9-155 (Starc, 17.6).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Thushara 4-0-42-3, Bumrah 3.5-0-18-3, Coetzee 2-0-24-0, Hardik 4-0-44-2, Dhir 3-0-25-0, Chawla 3-0-15-1.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Ishan Kishan b Starc 13 *(7b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Rohit Sharma **(Impact Player in place of Thushara)** c Pandey b Narine 11 *(12b, 1x6)*, Naman Dhir b Varun 11 *(11b, 2x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Salt b Russell 56 *(35b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Tilak Varma c Narine b Varun 4 *(6b)*, Nehal Wadhera b Narine 6 *(11b, 1x4)*, Hardik Pandya c Pandey b Russell 1 *(3b)*, Tim David c Shreyas b Starc 24 *(20b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Gerald Coetzee b Starc 8 *(7b, 1x6)*, Piyush Chawla c Narine b Starc 0 *(1b)*, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-3, nb-1, w-6): 10; Total (in 18.5 overs): 145.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-16 (Kishan, 1.4), 2-38 (Dhir, 4.1), 3-46 (Rohit, 5.5), 4-61 (Tilak, 8.4), 5-70 (Wadhera, 10.5), 6-71 (Hardik, 11.2), 7-120 (Suryakumar, 15.3), 8-144 (David, 18.2), 9-144 (Chawla, 18.3).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Arora 3-0-35-0, Starc 3.5-0-33-4, Varun 4-0-22-2, Narine 4-0-22-2, Russell 4-0-30-2.

Toss: Mumbai Indians.
PoM: Venkatesh.
KKR won by 24 runs.

Next assignment

KKR: May 5 vs **LSG**
Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

MI: May 6 vs **SRH**
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

Deepak Chahar. K.R. DEEPAK

Deepak Chahar to miss CSK's next match

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings pacer Deepak Chahar will miss the next game against Punjab Kings in Dharamshala on Sunday. The pacer had picked up a groin injury in the match against Kings at Chennai on Wednesday.

The 31-year-old, who walked off in pain in the third ball of the Kings' chase, stayed back in the city and underwent a scan on Thursday.

"We are waiting for reports, and he might travel to Ahmedabad, where we will assess him. At present, we are not ruling him out of the tournament," said the CSK CEO K.S. Viswanathan.

Coach Stephen Fleming had indicated the injury was concerning in the post-match press conference. Deepak had already missed a game against Mumbai Indians due to a niggle.

Royal Challengers will strive to keep their momentum going as they host Gill's Titans

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Having notched up wins in its last two fixtures, Royal Challengers Bengaluru has kept its IPL playoff hopes alive. RCB will strive to keep the momentum going with a good result against Gujarat Titans here on Saturday.

RCB holds sway, having gotten past the same opponent last week at Ahmedabad. The victory was set up by a brilliant unbeaten 41-ball 100 from Will Jacks, with Virat Kohli (70 n.o.) playing the supporting role. Unlike many other sides, RCB has not been able to take full advantage of home conditions. Faf du Plessis and his men have managed only one positive result in four games held at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here.

Jacks believes that RCB is now well poised to do well at home, given that their batters have found form. "We do not want to focus on our losing record here. Because of the playing conditions, it is hard to have home advantage. The pitches are good and the boundaries are small. If a batter gets going, it is hard to stop. Now that our batters are in form, we can hopefully finish our home games strongly," Jacks said.

> Now that our batters are in form, we can hopefully finish our home games strongly
> **WILL JACKS**
> RCB player

The city welcomed a long-awaited spell of rain on Friday, even if it mildly disrupted the training schedule of the teams. The skies cleared up later, allowing players to get a hit under lights.

Much like RCB, GT is teetering on the edge of elimination. With eight points from 10 matches, the visitor needs to get on a winning streak to push for a playoff spot. GT must address its bowling woes, having conceded 200-plus scores in its last two outings.

Raring to go: Kohli would be confident after his unbeaten 44-ball 70 in Ahmedabad. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bracing up: Rashid will be up for the fight after an uncharacteristic mediocre performance in the last match. K. MURALI KUMAR

Today's match

RCB vs GUJARAT TITANS

Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **4**
RCB **2** | GT **2**

PREVIOUS MEETING
RCB won by nine wickets, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA

We believed we could turn the match around, says Sunrisers Hyderabad's Nitish

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Nitish Kumar Reddy opened up about his side's thrilling one-run win over Rajasthan Royals. "T20 is all about changing the momentum. So, we believed that somehow we will take one or two wickets which we got of the well-set Yashasvi Jaiswal and Riyan Parag," Nitish said on Thursday.

Nitish said Sunrisers had the confidence that Bhuvneshwar Kumar would win it for them. The Andhra all-rounder said his role was to just build the innings after wickets fell early.

"I just wanted to build the innings and had planned to attack one over and change the momentum which happened when I saw [Yuzvendra] Chahal coming in to bowl. I was backing myself to go after him and that went pretty well," he said.

Vintage: Nitish said Sunrisers had confidence in Bhuvneshwar's death-bowling prowess. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	10	8	2	16	0.622
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	7	3	14	1.098
Lucknow Super Giants	10	6	4	12	0.094
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	6	4	12	0.072
Chennai Super Kings	10	5	5	10	0.627
Delhi Capitals	11	5	6	10	-0.442
Punjab Kings	10	4	6	8	-0.062
Gujarat Titans	10	4	6	8	-1.113
Mumbai Indians	11	3	8	6	-0.356
Royal Challengers	10	3	7	6	-0.415

INBRIEF

Champion Sabalenka sets up Swiatek rematch in Madrid

Defending Madrid Open champion Aryna Sabalenka produced a brilliant comeback from a set and a break down to beat Elena Rybakina 1-6, 7-5, 7-6(5) and reach the final on Thursday. The Belarusian second seed will face World No. 1 Iga Swiatek on Saturday in a rematch of last year's final. In the men's draw third seed Daniil Medvedev retired injured from his quarterfinal clash with Jiri Lehecka.

The results: Men: Quarterfinals: Auger-Aliassime bt Sinner w/o.; Lehecka bt Medvedev 6-4, ret.
Women: Semifinals: Swiatek bt Keys 6-1, 6-3; Sabalenka bt Rybakina 1-6, 7-5, 7-6(5).

Sriram-Begemann pair in last four in Cagliari challenger

Sriram Balaji in partnership with Andre Begemann beat the third-seeded Yuki Bhambri and Francisco Cabral 7-6(5), 7-6(4) in the doubles quarterfinals of the €205,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Cagliari, Italy. The Indo-German pair will play second seeds Alexander Erler and Lucas Miedler of Austria in the semifinals.

The results: €205,000 Challenger, Cagliari, Italy: Doubles (quarterfinals): Sriram Balaji & Andre Begemann (Ger) bt Yuki Bhambri & Francisco Cabral (Por) 7-6(5), 7-6(4).
$15,000 ITF, Monastir, Tunisia: Men: Singles (quarterfinals): Karan Singh bt Pedro Araujo (Por) 6-2, 6-2.
Women: Singles (quarterfinals): Vaishnavi Adkar bt Zou Ruirui (Chn) 7-5, 6-3.
Doubles (semifinals): Aixirefu Aitiyaguli & Xiao Zhenghua (Chn) bt Aaddi Gupta & Sara Lanca (Por) 6-1, 6-3; Hiromi Abe & Natsuho Arakawa (Jpn) bt Dayeon Back (Kor) & Zeel Desai 6-3, 5-7, [15-13].
$100,000 ITF women, Gifu, Japan: Doubles (quarterfinals): Kimberly Birrell (Aus) & Rebecca Marino (Can) bt Arianne Hartono (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare 6-3, 6-1; Madeleine Brooks (GBr) & Eudice Wong Chong (Hkg) bt Rutuja Bhosale & Sarah Grey (GBr) 2-6, 6-1, [10-7].

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Thomas & Uber Cup, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 7 a.m. & 2.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 10 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: (final), Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday)
Formula One: Miami GP (Qualifying), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Mohun Bagan banks on home support to overcome MCFC

Habas' team, which clinched the League winner's Shield after downing Kratky's men earlier in the season, will be confident of doing the double over its arch rival

ISL FINAL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Defending champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant finds Mumbai City FC standing in its way as it attempts to complete a season treble in the last title clash of the current domestic football season.

The Salt Lake Stadium will be playing host to an intense battle on Saturday as Bagan seeks to repeat the successful result against the same opponent that fetched the League winner's Shield at the same venue just 18 days ago.

MCFC, which had to concede the Shield given to the league champion as Bagan upstaged it with a 2-1 win, will be keen to avenge the defeat and redeem its stature by winning the playoff trophy.

All to play for: MCFC will have its task cut out in beating MBSG in its den. DEBASISH BHADURI

For Bagan, the ISL season so far has been about settling scores. It annexed the Shield to get even with the Mumbai outfit, which became the League champion by beating ATK Mohun Bagan in the 2020-21 season.

The playoff final (at Fatorda Stadium in Goa) saw the Islanders emerging triumphant again (2-1) as the Mariners returned home empty-handed.

Having won the Durand Cup and then the Shield, Bagan head coach Antonio Lopez Habas said his team will be looking to "complete the circle" by lifting the playoff title. This will also see it matching MCFC's record of clinching an ISL double.

With the tickets vanishing fast Bagan can expect over 60,000 fans to shepherd it to its goal. "I will always push for one thing, which is to complete the circle. We have the opportunity on Saturday, and will do our best to achieve it," Habas said.

"We have learnt from the previous game and will try to start the game a bit differently. We will play our football from the first minute. We will try to compete and win the game," MCFC head coach Petr Kratky said.

India is a very strong team, says Ganguly

CRICKET

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Friday rated the T20 World Cup-bound Indian team as a strong one.

Assessing the 15-member Indian team for the iconic event to be held in the USA and West Indies from June 2 to 29, Ganguly said the Rohit Sharma-led side was packed with match-winners. "They are a very strong team. All the 15 were good enough to be selected," Ganguly said on the sidelines of the trophy unveiling event of the inaugural Bengal Pro T20 League here. "They are all match winners. (Virat) Kohli, Rohit (Sharma), (Rishabh) Pant, Sanju Samson – I am very happy to see Sanju – (Shivam) Dubey. They are a very strong team."

India will play its group matches against Ireland, Pakistan, USA and Canada in the USA. From the Super Eight Stage onwards, the matches will be played in the West Indies.

Ganguly. DEBASISH BHADURI

Ganguly said spinners would play an important role in the West Indies. "The pitches will spin and will be slow and (will keep) low. Spinners will be important."

Ganguly saw logic in selecting an additional spinner ahead of finisher Rinku Singh. "They wanted to go with another spinner. It's just the beginning for Rinku."

About the tight race among teams for playoff berths in IPL, Ganguly, who is the team director of Delhi Capitals, said, "Everybody is on the same boat."

Nitten sparkles as India makes World Championship final

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Nitten Kirrtane won both his singles and doubles matches to help India defeat Britain 2-1 in the semifinals of the Fred Perry Cup over-50 event in the ITF Tennis Masters World Championship in Mexico on Thursday.

The Indian team had kept an unbeaten record in the league phase, as it beat Canada, France and Turkey, to top the group and qualify for the semifinals. The key to India's progress was Nitten winning all the doubles matches in partnership with Ajit Sail.

India was scheduled to play Italy in the final. Italy had got past the Netherlands in the semifinals.

Age is just a number: The India over-50 team which defeated Britain in the semifinals in Mexico. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Semifinals: India bt Britain 2-1 (Jagdish Tanwar lost to Nick Adams 4-6, 6-3, 1-6; Nitten Kirrtane bt Sebastian Jackson 6-3, 6-2; Ajit Sail & Nitten bt Nick Adams & Jeffrey Hunter 7-6(5), 6-4).
League: India bt Turkey 3-0 (Jagdish bt Erdal Gunes 6-0, 6-0; Nitten bt Bulent Nicimoglu 6-0, 6-1; Ajit & Nitten bt Erdal & Bulent 6-0, 6-0).
India bt France 2-1 (Jagdish bt Paulo Freitas 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-4; Nitten lost to Benoit Halle 3-6, 3-6; Ajit & Nitten bt Thomas Dupre & Benoit Halle 6-3, 6-4).
India bt Canada 2-1 (Jagdish lost to Benjamin Woo 6-3, 4-6, 1-6; Nitten bt Jason Christie 7-5, 6-2; Ajit & Nitten bt Hugues Laverdiere & Benjamin Woo 6-1, 6-1).

Seven Indians in title round

Sports Bureau

Seven Indian men advanced to the title round in the youth category at the ASBC Asian Under-22 & Youth Boxing Championships 2024 in Astana on Friday.

Brijesh Tamta beat Mongolia's Taalaibek Iasur in the 48kg category 5-0 while Rahul Kundu (75kg) and Aryan (92kg) outclassed China's Kanjiebayi Ersi and Kyrgyzstan's Alybaev Tynystan respectively with identical results. Sagar Jakhar (60kg), beat Kyrgyzstan's Sadirov Dilerbek with the referee stopping contest in the final round.

Aryan (51kg), Yashwardhan Singh (63.5kg) and Priyanshu (71kg) also reached the finals while Sumit (67kg) and Sahil (80kg) had to be content with bronze after losing their semifinal bouts.

Umpires, match officials named for T20 World Cup

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Umpires Nitin Menon and J. Madanagopal, along with ICC match referee Javagal Srinath will be the Indian representatives at the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Americas next month.

The ICC on Friday announced the list of 26 match officials set to be in charge for the first round of the month-long event to be held in USA and the West Indies, starting June 1.

There will be 20 umpires who will be officiating in 55 matches across nine venues. Besides Madanagopal, Sam Nogajski, Allahudien Paleker, Rashid Riaz and Asif Yaqoob will also be making their ICC senior men's competition debut.

As for the six referees, Ranjan Madugalle, Jeff Crowe, and Andrew Pycroft will also be among the renowned ones besides Srinath.

Umpires: Chris Brown, Kumar Dharmasena, Chris Gaffaney, Michael Gough, Adrian Holdstock, Richard Illingworth, Allahudien Paleker, Richard Kettleborough, Jayaraman Madanagopal, Nitin Menon, Sam Nogajski, Ahsan Raza, Rashid Riaz, Paul Reiffel, Langton Rusere, Shahid Saikat, Rodney Tucker, Alex Wharf, Joel Wilson and Asif Yaqoob.

Match Referees: David Boon, Jeff Crowe, Ranjan Madugalle, Andrew Pycroft, Richie Richardson and Javagal Srinath.

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